



ABOVE: Fundraising in style, (See pages 6 and 7 for details).

Bridgend & Porthcawl

GEM



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2010

Girl stabbed boyfriend to death after drinking spree – COURT IS TOLD

A BRIDGEND schoolgirl stabbed her boyfriend through the heart after going on a drinking spree when she received her A-level results, Cardiff Crown Court has been told.

Katherine McGrath (19) allegedly plunged a steak knife into Alyn Thomas's chest after drinking with her school-friends on the night of her exam results.

The court heard that Katherine and Alyn (22) downed Malibu, cider, lager and whisky in a day-long drinking session in bars at Bridgend town centre.

McGrath told police she grabbed the knife from the kitchen drawer to "scare him off" during a drunken row back at her large luxury home.

The court heard that the pair rowed after a woman colleague of supermarket worker

Alyn offered to buy him another drink while they were out.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that she stabbed Alyn at her £400,000 detached house, while her parents were out.

Prosecutor Roger Thomas QC said: "The wound penetrated Alyn Thomas's heart and he died shortly afterwards."

"There was no justification or excuse for Katherine McGrath taking hold of what was in effect a weapon – the steak knife – and using it to cause his death."

The court heard that McGrath was "distressed and emotional" during a 999 call in which she admitted stabbing her boyfriend.

McGrath claimed she acted in self-defence after her boyfriend attacked her and bit her thumb.

The court heard that she told the emergency operator: "I did it in self-defence. He's my

boyfriend and he came and attacked me and I didn't know what to do."

McGrath was arrested and taken to a police station where she was told Alyn had died.

The jury heard that a woman work colleague had earlier bought Alyn drinks – and McGrath claimed he shouted her name during their row.

She told officers: "My boyfriend pushed me to the floor twice. He's got two convictions for assault. He started biting me and I didn't know what to do. I just wanted him to get away from me. I love him."

The jury was told that Alyn and McGrath went to the Brynteg Comprehensive School in Bridgend on the morning of August 20 last year to collect her A-level results.

McGrath was due to go on to university, but had failed to achieve the necessary grades.

The pair spent much

of the day drinking, before Alyn went to work at a Tesco supermarket in Maesteg.

They met up again later and together drank Malibu, cider, lager and whisky, before meeting friends at bars in Bridgend town centre.

Mr Thomas said: "They were in one pub where Alyn met Tesco colleague, Carys

Stanton, who had accidentally bumped Alyn's car previously."

"She was embarrassed, even though Alyn Thomas laughed it off and made very little of the incident. She apologised for bumping his car and offered to buy Alyn some drinks."

"Katherine McGrath will later refer to this and will describe how it was the start of the incident."

"McGrath claimed that when Alyn attacked her he was aggressive and angry – shouting the name Carys."

Jurors were told that a

taxi driver who drove McGrath and Alyn to her home, thought they were "in good spirits and were a lively couple".

But McGrath told police that once inside the house Alyn's behaviour changed. She claimed he pushed her around the living room before she took the steak knife from a kitchen door to "scare him away".

McGrath's parents, retired teacher Martin and Carla McGrath and 20 friends and family are supporting her from the court's public gallery.

She denies murder and the trial continues.

Come along to our latest school show!



ABOVE:

It was curtain up last night (Wednesday) when Porthcawl Comprehensive School staged its new school musical, Annie. The show will run over four nights (Wednesday, February 3 to Saturday, February 6) and the young cast are enjoying tackling the much-loved story, which pits innocence against avarice. (See next week for more photographs by Mandy Thomas).

MAESTEG POOL: where the repair money will come from

MAESTEG Town Council has agreed to put up £100,000 towards the cost of repairing the town's swimming pool.

The council received a request from Bridgend Borough Council (BBCB) for help towards meeting the £600,000 cost of upgrading the pool, which closed suddenly last week after problems with the filtration plant.

The town council will pay £35,000 in the new financial year starting in April, which is money it had already budgeted for.

A further £35,000 will be paid the following year, and £30,000 in the year after.

The remaining £500,000 is being put up by the borough council – £250,000 from the minor works capital programme and £250,000 from the 'Invest to Save/Energy' fund.

Immediately following the closure, the cabinet announced that money would be found to repair the pool.

A commitment was given by council leader Mel Nott who said that, as this was such an important facility for the Llynfi valley, the repairs will be made.

The work to be done includes replacing all mechanical services,

including the filtration plant; installing a new plant room and also replacing the gas boiler, the air handling unit, the main switchgear and poolside control systems at a cost of £600,000.

A full condition survey has been carried out which found that, other than the plant room, the pool is structurally sound and generally in a good condition.

However, problems with the heating and air

handling systems have created a "musty" feel and also affected internal decoration as well as the perception of users.

The report warns that a further £400,000 will be required in repairs in future, including to the electrical circuits and the roof, but they are not required immediately.

Replacing the pool would cost between £3 million and £4 million.

When the issue was discussed at Maesteg

Town Council, members voted to find the money over the next three years, but they are to ask for assurances that the pool will be kept in good condition in the future, and not be allowed to deteriorate.

Town mayor Steve Smith, who took no part in the debate as he is also a borough councillor, said he welcomed the town council's decision.

(Continued on page 8)

Porthcawl skateboard park must have own pedestrian crossing – COUNCIL IS TOLD

PORTHCAWL Town Council has been told that it must construct a pedestrian crossing at Heol y Goedwig, as part of its skateboard plan.

Councillors heard that an extra £12,000 would be needed to finance a crossing on road safety grounds for users of the park who need to cross the road to reach it.

It is being provided on a grassed area at Heol y Goedwig.

Coun David Newton-Williams said that the plan was currently in with Bridgend County Borough Council (BBCB) planners.

He said that some questions had been raised about the proposed finish on the surfaces at the park, and these have been passed onto the contractors, who have designed the actual skateboard park.

Coun Newton-Williams said that BBCB may ask for a Section

106 agreement, which would commit the council to providing the crossing as part of the planning consent.

He understood that it would not be a zebra crossing, but a pedestrian reservation in the middle of the road, which would cost £12,000. Railings would also be installed to direct pedestrians to cross at this site.

"They are afraid of youngsters coming straight from the skateboard park onto the road," he said. "I think we will have to swallow this extra expenditure."

Conservative council leader David Deere said that it may well be that this condition may be imposed and he said that the council would have to look at the funding implications.

"We do have money available. If we had not put sufficient into the pot, this scheme would be dead in the water because we could not comply with the planning consent," he said.

"We now need to see if planning is granted."

Coun Alana Davies commented that if this was a condition, she would welcome it as it would enhance the safety for everyone in that area. "A crossing is something everyone would benefit from," she said.

Coun Norah Clarke said that she understood planners wanted a crossing, but Coun Newton-Williams had said a central refuge. "A central refuge is not a crossing – they are pelicans, zebras or toucans, we need to clarify what they mean."

Coun Gerald Davies said that the whole council had to get behind this scheme and ensure that it was successful.

"We all want a crossing across Heol y Goedwig anyway, and I have been concerned about the speed of traffic there for many years."

"We must progress this as quickly as possible and, if necessary, have a face-to-face meeting with officers at the coun-

ty borough. I am worried about the time scale.

Once we move ahead on the crossing, there will be a reaction from residents as they will lose parking space. This will cause ripples."

"We must get a Rolls Royce development here for the safety of the people using this skateboard park."

It was agreed that Coun Newton-Williams will arrange an urgent meeting with officers to thrash out exactly what was required of the town council as part of the planning consent.

Mayor Rosemary Deere said that the town council must ensure it does not lose any outside funding through not complying with deadlines.

The town council has a budget of £80,000 for the new skateboard park – £40,000 raised by an increase in its precept and a further £40,000 drawn down in match funding from other bodies, including BBCB.

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MAKING THE INTERNET MUCH SAFER FOR OUR CHILDREN...

THE internet has opened up a world of information and opportunity, enabling people across the globe to communicate in ways that previously we would never have thought possible.

In the UK, almost three quarters of the population has internet access at home and regularly use the internet for a host of different purposes.

It is an increasingly vital tool of modern life, and its usage will only grow in future generations. Indeed, 99 per cent of all 8-17 year olds already have access to the internet.

The value of the internet as an educational, social and commercial resource is as exciting and huge in its implications as the invention of the printing press.

However, everyone needs to know how to maximise their enjoyment of the internet whilst being aware of the dangers its use can pose – particularly to children.

While most internet content and activities are safe, it is important to be as vigilant online as you would be in real life.

Some of you may have already seen the leaflets that I produced regarding internet safety for children, and in this article I intend to give more detail about what the government is doing to increase the safety of the internet.

I also want to extend the practical advice I provided in my leaflets to parents.

The government recently established the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKC-CIS), and has brought over 140 key players from industry and charities together to establish new standards to keep children and young people safe online.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has invited Microsoft to give internet safety presentations in Porthcawl and Bridgend on February 11 to answer parents' concerns.



The UK is the first country in the world to get companies such as Microsoft, Google and Facebook to sign up to this sort of regulation and we are determined to lead the way on internet safety.

The new standards mean that all companies have to clearly state on their website what the rules are for using the website (including things like age restrictions), as well as what children or parents should do if they see something that is offensive or believe shouldn't be there.

The standards also aim to help parents monitor their children's behaviour online and to provide safe search options so that parents can stop their children seeing inappropriate content.

These developments are very important and

will certainly contribute to making the internet a safer place for our children and young people.

Nationally, one in five children say they have already encountered harmful or inappropriate content online. From my experience of talking to children in our local primary schools, I think this figure may be an under estimation.

However, there are some simple steps that parents can take at home to increase the safety of children online. Many parents are already aware of how to do this, but some are not.

Perhaps the simplest and most practical thing to do is to move the computer to a family room, so that online activities can be monitored more easily.

It is also possible to enable a 'firewall', which is a virtual

defence found on most computers, that blocks a lot of harmful content from being displayed.

If your child is using social networking sites such as Bebo, Facebook, MySpace or Twitter, check to see what information they are sharing on their personal page. Encourage them never to give out their address, telephone number or date of birth, and to talk to you if they feel anxious or concerned about anything online.

Similarly, children should never use a webcam with anyone they don't know in real life, and should only show pictures online that they would be happy for anyone to see.

Most importantly, children should never meet up with anyone they have only known online.

It is very important to make children and young people feel safe and confident in their use of the internet, and for them to feel comfortable discussing what they do online with their parents or carers.

However, because parents may sometimes feel uncomfortable or unfamiliar with certain

aspects of the internet, I have written an advice leaflet for parents and invited Microsoft to give presentations to parents and carers in the Bridgend area.

The presentations will focus on building parents' confidence through explaining how young people are using the internet and how the technology works, as well as providing more guidance and practical advice to help safeguard children and young people online.

The presentations are totally free and will last for an hour, which includes time for any questions you may have. They are scheduled to take place on February 11 at 2pm at Nottage Primary School, Porthcawl, and at 7pm at Brynteg Comprehensive School, Bridgend.

If you would like more information about how to make the internet an even better resource for your children, I highly recommend that you come along to one of these presentations.

Alternatively, if you would like a copy of the leaflet entitled 'Internet Safety', please call the constituency office on 750002 or you can access the leaflet on my website

www.madeleinemoon-mp.com.

With continued work in government and at home, together we can make the internet a safer and more enjoyable place for everyone.

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 11)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
04 Thu	09.54	9.8	22.09	9.3
05 Fri	10.35	9.1	22.59	8.6
06 Sat	11.16	8.3	23.51	7.9
07 Sun			12.21	7.7
08 Mon	00.58	7.5	13.49	7.3
09 Tues	02.33	7.4	15.15	7.3
10 Wed	03.49	7.9	16.19	7.9
11 Thur	04.51	8.3	17.15	8.4

Help centre for Six Nations revellers

A TRIAGE unit will be set up in Bridgend town centre to treat any Six Nations revellers medical attention on Saturday, February 6, Saturday, February 13 and Friday, February 26 between 10pm-4am.

Based at the ground floor of Hope Baptist Church on Station Hill,

St John's Ambulance paramedics will be on hand to give medical attention and treat problems such as cuts and sprains. Police officers will be at the centre with paramedics, and will take crime complaints and lost property reports.

Sgt Angela Bennett (Community Safety) said: "The Triage centre takes the pressure off the ambulance and Police Service. It is also a resource for people who are feeling vulnerable in

the town centre, who may have had a bit too much to drink or if they find themselves on their own."

Bridgend's street pastors will also be on patrol. Rev Mark Thomas, who runs the street pastor scheme, says the team are happy to be on board with it. "It's encouraging to be involved as part of this. It's recognition of our work."

Dog fouling working group

PORHCRAWL Town Council is to reconvene the dog fouling working group as soon as possible.

The council received information about a complaint made by a resident about problems in the West Road and Nottage Meadows area.

BCBC's enforcement officers have been in touch and will be monitoring that area.

Coun Chris Smart said that he could not over-stress the importance of getting a meeting of the working group.

Coun Norah Clarke added that she had contacted the wardens herself about problems at New Road.

Turn the lights out!

REFER to Mr Norman's recent letter regarding the traffic lights at the Ewenny and Waterton roundabouts and would support their removal.

The recent 'turn off' of the lights at Waterton was overwhelming proof that traffic flowed more easily without them. I am told by a daily commuter to Cardiff that since the lights have been in operation, the journey time has increased by an average of 16 minutes. So spare a thought for the motorist and turn them off!

Helen Baker, Ewenny
(Conservative parliamentary candidate for Bridgend)

Call for pet microchipping

RURAL affairs minister Elin Jones visited the Dogs Trust rehoming centre in Bridgend last week for a tour of the kennels and a meeting to discuss animal welfare issues.

Last November, the Minister announced a review of licensing and regulation of dog breeding in Wales. A task and finish group to review existing guidance was established and held its first meeting on January 21.

The Minister wants compulsory microchipping of dogs to be con-

sidered, and electronic training devices, such as electric shock collars, banned in Wales.

Elin Jones said: "I am committed to raising the standards of welfare for dogs in Wales, and am determined to take action to tackle bad practice in the dog breeding industry."

"Dogs Trust and others have been calling on the government to introduce compulsory microchipping of dogs to improve identification and traceability. I will be encouraging voluntary microchipping, while also considering the need to make microchipping compulsory."

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417. Constituency office - 47 Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm (by appointment only). Telephone 01656 750002.

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777

JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034

CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320

Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549

BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 - Open: Monday: 10am to 2pm - information only; Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 12.30pm - advice sessions. Tuesday to Friday 12.30pm to 1.30pm - information only.

MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau 01656 734662

POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555

Porthcawl 01656 785411

Maesteg 01656 732122

CRIMSTOPPERS 0800 555111

(Emergency number 999)

COASTGUARD 01792 366534

GAS (escapes and emergency) 0800 111999

ELECTRICITY (power cuts) 0800 0520400

WATER SUPPLY (emergency) 0800 0520130

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HELPLINES

Alcohol and drugs:

Drinkline 0800 9178282

National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

SSAFA - Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**

RAF Association Welfare Officer

01495 249522/01446 740522

SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**

MENTAL DISTRESS

(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**

CHILDLINE 0800 1111

NSPCC 0800 800500

RSPCA 0300 123 0744

WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139

Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479

Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Housing service

(General enquiries) **01656 643643;**

(emergencies out of hours) **01656 643643;**

(homelessness) **01656 643643.**

EDUCATION 01656 643643

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677

HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643643**

HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES

(outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**

SOCIAL SERVICES

(general enquiries) **01656 642200**

SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES

(outside normal working hours) **01443 204010**

HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital,

Bridgend **01656 752752/668090.**

Bridgend and District NHS Trust

01656 752752/668090.

VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of

Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Brackla Community Council **01656 767072**

Bridgend Town Council **01656 659943**

Cefn Cribwr Community Council **01656 741354**

Coity Higher Community Council **01656 656358**

Cornelly Community Council **07882 044798**

Pyle Community Council **01656 670251**

Coychurch Higher Community Council **01656 863418**

Coychurch Lower Community Council **01656 647216**

Garw Valley Community Council **01656 736751**

Laleston Community Council **01656 656506**

Llangynwyd Lower Council **01656 720086**

Maesteg Town Council **01656 732631**

Merthyr Mawr Community Council **01656 670058**

Newcastle Higher Community Council **01446 750663.**

Ogmore Valley Community Council **01656 849402**

Pencoe Town Council **01656 869031**

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ggem@internet-today.co.uk

DRAINS BLOCKED BY LEAVES CAUSED FLOODING PROBLEMS IN PORTHCAWL

FLOODING problems in South Road, Porthcawl, were caused by leaves blocking the drains.

That information has been given by Aubrey Green, group manager of highways, to Porthcawl Town Council in response to a query about flooding at 61-67

South Road during a storm last October.

Mr Green said that a highways engineer had visited the site and spoken to residents. Two of the road gullies were found to be sealed by fallen leaves and this had prevented the water from entering the drains.

Once the leaves had been removed, the water quickly went down. The

problem was worsened by inconsiderate motorists creating "waves" by travelling too fast through the flooded area.

The gullies are regularly cleaned and there were no reported defects in the drainage system but to try and obviate the problem in future, two extra gullies will be installed outside these houses and work will be carried out as soon as resources become available.

Coun David Newton Williams said that there were 140,000 houses in Wales at risk of flooding – 12 per cent of the housing stock.

"Parts of Porthcawl are at risk from Newton on. When planning

applications go in, they are asking for a risk assessment for each application."

The conversion of houses into flats increased the risk factor, because people living in ground floor flats could not run upstairs to escape from rising water.

"We have to look at the evacuation procedures to ensure that people can get out of a house," he said. "The acceptable depth is two feet and we must live with that. There's nothing we can do. All of this increases costs by up to £300 per application."

The council decided to note the information about the flooding in South Road.

Haiti concert fundraiser

FOLLOWING the recent earthquake in Haiti that has left over 150,000 people dead and more than 1.5 million people homeless, Madeleine Moon, the MP for Bridgend, has organised fundraising concerts featuring choirs from primary schools in the area.

Tickets can be purchased on the door and will cost £2.50.

There will also be collection tins and other fundraising activities.

"This is a chance to enjoy an evening showcasing the best talents of our children, while donating money to an

extremely important cause.

"Please come along and show your support to both the children and to Haiti," the Bridgend MP said.

The concerts will be held at Brackla Tabernacle, Brackla on Thursday, February 4; and also at the Bethlehem Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr on Friday, February 5 (both from 7pm-9pm).

Schools performing at Brackla Tabernacle are: Maes-yr-Haul Primary, Trelales Primary, Tremains Juniors, Archdeacon John Lewis, Primary and Cornelly Primary.

Schools singing at Bethlehem Life Centre are Bryntirion Juniors, Cefn Cribwr Primary and Mynydd Cynffig Juniors.

Revlon factory

THE demolition of part of the former Revlon factory in Maesteg is being carried out by its private owners.

Bridgend County Borough Council has said that the demolition of these buildings is nothing to do with them.

The factory closed last year when Budelpack closed down. Prior to that, it was run by Cosi and for 40 years

before that, was owned by the Revlon cosmetics company, employing up to 800 people at one time.

It stands next door to the former Cooper Standard Products factory which manufactured rubber channelling for the car industry. It closed down two years ago when production was transferred to Poland. It employed up to 400 people.

YFC show off their public speaking skills

HAVING originally been delayed by the weather, young farmers from across Glamorgan were finally able to demonstrate their oratory skills by taking part in public speaking competitions at Pencoed College on Sunday January 31.

It was a busy day, but everything ran smoothly, with all competitors displaying a high standard.

Maendy's junior team consisted of Zolly Whitaker (chairperson), Jack Thomas (vote of thanks) and for the first

time Anysha Panesar (main speaker). All did extremely well, achieving joint second place on the day. Zolly and Jack were chosen as reserves for the county team going forward to the Wales round.

The senior competition took the form of a debate. Maendy's team was made up of Natalie Lewis, Hannah Lewis, Mared Williams, Rebecca Harry and Ieuan Rosser.

Flooding and Strike Action were just two of the topics for discussion on the day, both allowing for strong arguments. Maendy beat off stiff competition to achieve first place.

Natalie, Hannah and Becky along with two members from other clubs were chosen to go forward to represent Glamorgan in March at the Wales finals.

The teams would like to extend their sincere thanks to all who help with training this year.

Don't forget this year's drama parents evening, this Sunday (February 7) at Peterston-Super-Ely village. Doors open at 7pm, curtain up 7.30pm. For more information, contact club chairman Natalie Lewis 07841 486440, or visit www.maendy.btik.com.

HL

Maesteg school pupil recognised in top dance coach awards

NATALIE DAVIES, a year-11 student from Maesteg Comprehensive School, was recognised for her contribution to sport at the annual Sports Council for Wales Coach of the Year awards.

Natalie beat off other contenders to finish in the top four for her category.

Young Coach/Leader of the Year. She received a special mention on the night of the awards on how remarkable her achievements were at such a young age, and the mas-

sive potential she has shown in her coaching ability.

Natalie was recognised for her outstanding achievements in coaching the schools 5x60 junior and 5x60 senior dance team, which resulted in both age groups gaining second place in the Welsh Schools National Dance Championships and first place in the Bridgend County Dance Competition.

These achievements proved even more remarkable due to all the other school teams at the competitions having either PE teachers or qualified dance instruc-



Natalie Davies.

tors taking the groups.

Darren Robinson, active young people officer, said: "I first noticed Natalie as one of the participants attending the 5x60 club which takes place out of school hours, an initiative which encourages youngsters to become more active,

more often.

"She progressed from dancing herself to both choreograph and 'mix' the music for the school teams.

"Due to her interest in coaching and the potential she has shown, Natalie has recently become a County Accredited Sports Coach/Leader for the Active Young People Department, where we now look forward to involving her with many other projects and programmes in the borough.

"She deserves this recognition and has demonstrated herself to be an inspirational role model."

Pyle shoppers help with deaf charity donation

THE RNID charity has thanked Co-operative staff, customers and members for a record £3.5 million donation.

The Pyle store was one of the biggest donors – contributing an impressive £7,730 in only 11 months.

The deafness and hearing loss charity is presenting a giant £3.35 million till receipt to the Pyle store to mark the achievement.

The receipt will also highlight that 110,000 hearing checks were performed last year during The Co-operative initiative, which aimed to increase awareness of the signs of hearing loss and hearing health, as well as raise money, a spokeswoman said.

Money flooded in from a variety of activi-

ties, including sponsored walks, parachute jumps, head shaves and karaoke events; an intrepid group even climbed Mont Blanc.

At Pyle, among the fundraising activities were a 'Stars in their Eyes' event, a quiz night and raffles.

Store manager, Rob Cook, said: "We've had a great time fundraising and are proud that together, our staff, members and customers have helped raise a massive £3.5 million for RNID."

"It has been a real co-operative effort and we would like to thank all our shoppers in Pyle for digging deep in their pockets and supporting our staff in raising so much for this worthwhile charity."

Ogmore valley bids for £2,000 project funds

A BID for £2,000 funding has been submitted by Ogmore Valley Community Council to the special fund set up by Bridgend County Borough Council for town and community council projects.

The council is looking for money to carry out three projects – the restoration of the old railway platform at the former Ogmore Vale station; work to the clock and clocktower at Pricetown Square and repairs to the old clock tower in Evanstown.

It wants to make the old railway station a focal point along the cycle track which now runs along the old valley railway line.

The council would

like to put in picnic tables and benches as well as restoring the platform and installing railings.

It has been in contact with the Ogmore Valley Historical and Heritage Society about also placing information boards on the history of the station and of the Gwalia Stores which were located nearby, but are now in St Fagans Welsh folk museum.

The council has received an £11,000 quotation to repair the clock at Pricetown Square, but the actual clocktower needs structural and other repair work carried out which is not yet priced. Work is also needed on the clock mounting in Evanstown.

The council would have to find match funding for any money allocated to it by the borough council.

KPC YOUTH - A PLACE TO 'HANG OUT' AT HALF-TERM

KPC Youth, the charity based in Pyle, will be open daily during the half-term holidays, February 15-19, from 10am until 3 pm daily for eight to 12-year-olds, and until 5 pm for over 13s.

Young people from Bridgend County are all welcome to attend.

Evening opening will be Monday and

Wednesdays 5.30-8 pm for 8-12s, and 8-10 pm for 13+. Then Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5.30-10 pm for ages 13+ only.

An ice skating trip to Cardiff Ice Rink has been planned for the Friday evening.

KPC Youth offers a wide range of on-site activities, including a great outdoor skate park, bmx track, multi-sports court, adventure play area, fantastic Digilab with internet access, drum room, arts/crafts, pool, table tennis and lots more!

During the February holidays other activities on offer include: African drum workshop – starting 12 midday Tues February 16; Fishing Trip – in the morning on February 17; Basketball/Futsal

Competition – 8.15 pm Wednesday, February 17;

Workshop on Diversity – midday on February 18;

Boxing – in the evening on February 18;

Skate/Blade/BMX competition – 12-3pm on February 19;

Ice Skating Trip to Cardiff Ice Rink – in the evening on February 19.

The centre is located next to Pil Primary School in Pyle, off Pyle Inn Way. in Pyle. Membership is just £1.50, with daytime and evening sessions costing £1 per session for members, £1.50 for non-members. If you're aged between 13-17 there's even free Admission during the half-term holiday if you become a member!

KPC also operates a free minibus service which will run a return trip back to Cefn Cribwr and Cornelly on a Tuesday and Thursday night for ages 13+ - to find out more, why not call in at the Centre, or phone 01656 745399/749219 or email: kpcyouth@hotmail.com



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Art meeting
COWBRIDGE Art Society meets on Thursday, February 11 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, when George Goddard will be returning for the second half of the practical with pastels – non-members are welcome to attend.

As part of the society's 50th anniversary celebrations, an outing has been arranged for members to visit the Royal Academy in London on Sunday, February 28 for the Van Gogh exhibition. Enquiries to 01446 775735, or 01656 860095.

Pyle & Porthcawl Photographic Society's annual presentation

THE Pyle & Porthcawl Photographic Society held its annual 'best portfolio' competition on January 28 in four categories: abstract, portrait, landscape and nature.

This year's competition judge was Roy Thomas and the overall winner was Glyn Edmunds, who achieved maximum points in two categories. Second place went to Bill Howells, and third was Lynne Jeffreys.

Glyn works for StudioTEQ in Porthcawl and is the social secretary for the society. He said that camera clubs and societies are great places for people of all ages to learn and extend or pass on their skills.

The society meets at The Rest Hotel at 7.30pm each Thursday. Prospective members can contact him on 01656 772831 for more information.



Glyn Edmunds, the overall winner of the competition, receives his award from Roy Thomas.



All tied up.



Urban reflection.



Beautiful beau.

Golden year for Bridgend Male Choir gets under way



BRIDGEND Male Choir took to the stage resplendent in brand new uniforms and gold bow ties for its golden celebrations.

The occasion was to help the students of Brynteg Comprehensive School to raise funds for the seniors' rugby and netball tour of the east coast of Australia.

Staff member Robert Sage welcomed the capacity audience of 200 and the choir had a number of old boys from the school in its ranks. Among them was baritone David Francis, who performed 'I dreamed a dream' from *Les Misérables*. David had last sung in the school hall as a boy soprano 50 years previously.

Also among the old boys was Laleston's Len Gwilliam, another baritone. Len had famously captained the school rugby team in 1946/47/48 paving the way for a host of academic British Lions, including Dr Jack Matthews, JPR Williams, Gareth Williams, Mike Hall, Robert Howley, Dafydd James and Gavin Henson.

The concert was led by John Jenkins, who included in the repertoire 'Comrades in Arms', the 'Roman War Song' and 'Bui Doi' in tribute to the British Armed Forces, in readiness for the choir's UK cathedral series tour.

Tenor soloist Paul Carter performed the solo part in the *Miss Saigon* number. The music content allowed accompanist, Laura Smith to show her outstanding talent.

Other soloists included tenor Gwyn Williams with 'Beautiful Dreamer', baritone David Hillman with 'Long Ago and Far Away' (from the film, *Cover Girl*), bass Gethin Williams with 'In Cellar Cool', tenor John Morgan with 'Lily of the Valley' and tenor Leon Evans with 'Morte Criste'.

Choristers of Bridgend Male Choir are now carrying out arguably their best ever programme of events to mark the choir's special birthday.

The choir's next event is a short tour to Torbay next month.

DAVID T BURT

Concert for Bobath

RHYDIAN, Peter Karrie, Denis O'Neill and Roy Noble will be joined by Margaret Williams, Bechgn Bro Taf and The Debbie Chapman Dancers at a gala concert in aid of Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales.

The concert is being held at the City Hall, Cardiff on Friday, February 12 and tickets cost £25 to include an interval drink, available from Bobath on 029 2052 2600; email: fundraising@bobathwales.org

Police team report on the benefits of intercom systems

THE Maesteg neighbourhood policing team has been working closely with the residents of a sheltered housing development and their landlord to try and improve security at the scheme.

In recent months, PCSOs Rachael Bargery and Tom Davies have been working closely with Valleys 2 Coast Housing Association to introduce an intercom system at the block of flats on Dyffryn Road, Caerau.

Residents have been reporting a high incidence of anti social behaviour to the Caerau neighbourhood team over a period of months and officers have been liaising with V2C to try and make improvements to the security of the complex.

PCSO Bargery said: "We have responded to reports when youths

both young and old have entered the block of flats and caused annoyance, such as emptying litter bins, banging on doors and even stealing property. This anti social behaviour has also led, unfortunately, to the more extreme levels when on one occasion litter bins were set alight.

"We identified the problem and then approached V2C to see what could be done. It was very apparent, that there were no limits on who could enter the flats, at any time of the day or night.

"It was agreed that an intercom system would be installed which should put an end to the problems being experienced by the residents.

"We are now pleased to say that the system has been put in place and as a result there have been no further reports of youth annoyance or antisocial behaviour at the flats."

Who wants to build what and where?

Cardiff Treescapes -

Laleston Cottage, Laleston - to place a bridging lintel and conduit over a large lateral roof of this tree.

Bridgend Borough Council - rear of open air section Rhw car park, off Nolton Street, Bridgend -

works to several trees including fell, crown reduce, remove limbs (trees within Merthyr Mawr Road conservation area).

Mr P Rixon - Ty Newydd, 300 New Road, Porthcawl - trim height and width of bay tree and willow tree to overhang adjoining property (within Newton conservation area).

Mr J McConville - 34 Coychurch Road, Bridgend - convert existing house and annexe into three self-contained flats.

Bridgend College Estates Department - Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend - creation of multi-purpose lecture theatre, replace facade and internal alterations and external alterations.

ations.

Bridgend College Estates Department - Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend - creation of a hair and beauty teaching facility and salon including internal alterations of existing carpentry.

Bridgend College Estates Department - Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend - relocation of LRC to G Block including internal alterations and recladding external envelope.

Bridgend College Estates Department - Bridgend College, Queen's Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend - internal refurbishment creating lecture theatre and WCs, new atrium penetrating existing roof and utilise existing car park.

Inter Hut Ltd - Unit B2, Triangle Centre, Brackla, Bridgend - change of use from A1 to A3 (pizza takeaway/delivery).

Mr A Daniels - 11 High Street, Laleston, Bridgend - widening of driveway, alteration of existing kerb line and alteration to wall.

Mr S Atkinson - 3 Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl - two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

Wales & West Housing Association - 23 Clos y Wern, Brackla, Bridgend - creation of single storey bedroom and bathroom extension for disabled tenant.

Helen Watts - 79 Glyn y Nant, Tondy, Bridgend - proposed first floor extension above garage.

Mr L Owen - garden of 1 Bedford Road, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend - new detached dwelling in garden of 1 Bedford Road.

Conway Homes (Wales) Ltd - 14 Cwrt-ty-Mawr, Ogmore Vale - applica-

tion for retention of house and associated street works.

Mr G Lewis - 33 Duffryn Oaks Drive, Pencoe - proposed three-storey extension to existing house.

Trustees of Merthyr Mawr Estate Office - Park Cottage, 26 Derllwyn Road, Tondy, Bridgend - demolish chimney and flue and create new opening in internal wall, new roof light, render and paint exterior blockwork walls.

Mr R Green - ground of 14 Austin Avenue, Laleston, Bridgend - three-bedroom detached dwelling in the grounds of 14 Austin Avenue.

Mrs H Patel - Giffach Ordydd Farm, Dimbath Lane, Blackmill, Bridgend - retention of pig house, a building to house two hydro electric turbines and equipment - affecting Footpath 8 Ogmore Valley.

Mr S Radford - 8 Coed ty Maen, Llangewydd Court, Bridgend - two-storey side extension.

Mr M Watts - 20 Foxhollows, Brackla, Bridgend - two-storey extension to side of dwelling (living room and bedroom - amended proposal).

Mr S Penpraze - 12 Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, Bridgend - two-storey rear/side extension to enlarge kitchen and incorporating new garage space.

Groundwork BNPT - land adjacent St Ceinwyr's Church, Llangineor, Bridgend - install a bench with stone walls and artwork and to lay a path suitable for disabled access.

Groundwork BNPT - land adjacent Park Street/tennis court, Pontycymmer, Bridgend - install a six-tiered seating area adjacent to the tennis courts.

GEM Quiz League round-up

MONDAY, January 25, was quarter-finals night for KO Cup and Plate competitions, and there were a few high scores and two or three high aggregates.

The highest of these also produced an unexpected result in the game between Maesteg Catholic Club and Llangineor AFC.

After the first 10, Llangineor AFC led 19-18; and after the individual round, it was 28-11. At the start of the roll-up it was 50-44 to the AFC.

They stuck after three, but Maesteg decided to go for it; and they did, successfully: 56-44, then neck and neck to the finish, leaving Llangineor winners by 72-71.

Top score was by Tondy Railway Club, who got 74 to beat

Oldcastle Bs' 48.

Royal Oak Nomads and Gamekeepers began steadily, but from the Individual round onwards, Nomads slowly but surely pulled away to win 70-49.

The other cup-game ended with Cabo Roche winning 59-50.

In the Plate, the Royal Oak Royals led from the start at the Llynfi Arms and they increased that lead gradually, until it was 10 when they reached the roll-up - where Llynfi reduced it somewhat.

However, The Royals were never headed and eventually won 70-66. Prince of Wales 'A' managed a creditable 60 points at home to Mackworth Arms, but they made 63.

Oldcastle 'A' eliminated Oddfellows Arms, winning 57-46 and there was a slight surprise in the remaining game when Pyle RFC beat Llangewydd Arms 53-42.

Here are your special four:

1 What is the only marsupial native to the USA?

2 Which popular hymn was written by the Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould in 1865 for a children's Whit Monday procession at Horbury Bridge in Yorkshire?

3 Which South African outside-half dropped the winning goal seven minutes from time when they beat the All Blacks to win the World Cup in 1995?

4 Which engineer and his son produced their first sports car in Stuttgart in 1948?

A RUDGE (Hon sec BGQL)

4 Ferdinand Porsche
3 Lord's
2 Oswald Christian
1 Drosom.
Answers

IN LINE FOR AN AWARD

LOUISE ELWARD, who works for Logica at the Waterton Industrial Estate, is a finalist in the Support Person category of Welsh Centre Awards.

The awards celebrate individuals, teams and companies in the Welsh contact centre industry.

Six company awards include Best Customer Services, Best Resource Planning and Best Use of Welsh.

Louise will discover if she has won at an awards ceremony in Cardiff's City Hall on February 11.

LALESTON WI NEWS

Video record of a wedding that was held in Nepal

DUE to wintry weather, the first 2010 meeting was postponed to January 21.

A short business agenda was dealt with and the president informed members that Laleston would be providing the delegate to represent the four institutes in the Calm group at the AGM in Cardiff in June.

The luncheon club will restart by meeting on February 9 at the Llangewydd Arms.

Miss Davies then introduced Mr Allen, who was on a return visit, to talk about a Nepalese wedding - his daughter's.

Mr Allen and family had been walking in Nepal and during one visit, his daughter met her future husband. The whole family and friends returned for the wedding and, as seen from his video display, a most unusual and happy time was had by all.

Mr Allen supports a charity in Nepal - Aid for Nepali Children - and so far it has provided food, and three schools have been built.

The next project will be to provide toilets for the schools. Mr Allen is soon to go back to Nepal for another visit.

Weather permitting, the next meeting will be held on February 4 and a musical travelogue will be included.

Choir tour
GARW Valley male choir (Cor Meibion Cwm Garw) has been invited to sing at the wedding between Anne Upton and Kevin Thomas at St Mary's Church, Noltton, Bridgend, on Saturday, February 6.

The choir is taking part in a concert tour to Northampton, with the Northampton Male Voice Choir on May 1.

Choristers in the area who would like to take part should go along to Pontycymer rugby club any Monday or Wednesday evening at 7pm to join in rehearsals.

For more information, telephone 'Dixie' on 01656 870304; e-mail pontycymer.po@btconnect.com.

Public allotments
UNFORTUNATELY, I have received a series of phone calls from a resident in Greenfield Terrace, Ogmere Vale, complaining at the state of the allotments adjacent to his property.

He is a pensioner and has always kept his garden neat and tidy, but is struggling at present because of the intrusion of brambles from the allotments onto his property.

He is also complaining that someone is using a plot as a dump for household rubbish.

We are constantly informed that at a time when people are encouraged to grow their own vegetables, there are not enough allotment plots.

Surely there is an opportunity to tidy up vacant plots and let them to people keen to grow their own!

Three choirs
A Cawl a Chân - Soup and Song musical evening at Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmere Vale, on March 1, is a special St David's day celebration organised by the Ogmere Valley Male Voice Choir.

Under musical director Eira Paskin (a retired school teacher) together with accompanists Debbie Lewis and Katrin Jenkins, this choir is renowned throughout south Wales.

There are two guest

POLICE ADVICE

BRACKLA residents are being given advice by PCSO Steve Bowen of the Neighbourhood Policing Team, who is holding crime prevention tables at the Co-op.

He explained: "The crime prevention tables are part of the on-going PACT initiative and I look forward to meeting any local residents who may have concerns and are unable to get to their PACT meetings. This is also an opportunity for a more informal chat."

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399
email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



ABOVE and BELOW: The embroidery donated to St Tyfodwg's church.



choirs also taking part - Ogmere Valley Ladies Choir, under musical director Kitty David and accompanist Sheila Evans, which each year nominates a charity to support.

This year it is the First Responders. Hopefully, the annual concert will be held on March 24. This had to be cancelled in November because of the ill health of key members.

Also taking part is the mixed choir - Cor Bach Y Bont from Coity - also under Eira Paskin.

The male voice choir rehearses at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre on Thursday evenings and the ladies choir at the Welfare Hall on Monday evenings between 6.30pm-8.30pm.

Young singers
LAST weekend I had the pleasure of listening to the youngsters competing for the 'Bridgend Young Singer of the Year' title at Maesteg town hall.

All the organisations involved deserve special mention: Maesteg Gleemen male voice choir for the hard work their committee and members put in to ensure the smooth running of the competition.

Operation Bungle targets drivers

NEIGHBOURHOOD Policing Teams in Litchard and Brackla targeted illegal motorists in the area.

Last week, local police officers and PCSOs were joined by members of the roads policing unit in an ANPR exercise.

They patrolled the Litchard, Brackla and surrounding areas in police traffic vehicles Operation Bungle, which resulted in the seizure of five vehicles, two arrests and six fixed penalty notices.

Four vehicle defect rectification notices were issued and 19 other road traffic related documents were also issued to drivers.

'Verdove', a Welsh traditional song without musical accompaniment and very competently.

The winner of each category received the Bryan Davies trophy, a cheque for £100 plus a £300 cheque to further musical education at their school. Runners-up received a trophy plus a cheque for £50 and £50 to the school.

The adjudicators were Richard Elfyn Jones (senior lecturer in compositions at Cardiff University), Beverly Humphreys (BBC presenter and soon to be High Sheriff) and Bryan Davies.

Embroidery
I HAVE been sent copies of photos taken of embroidery that I have taken it upon myself to investigate further.

These frontals were made and donated to St Tyfodwg's Church,

Glyngowr, by Mrs Joan Webb of Ogmere Vale. She didn't design the motif, but bought the printed material from an arts and crafts supplier and then embroidered it using silk threads.

Her interests in arts and crafts began as a pupil in school and later in her early 20s, she went to evening class.

At present, Joan is a member of the arts and crafts section of the Ogmere Valley ladies society and choir, which meets on Wednesday evenings between 6.30pm-8pm at the Welfare Hall.

One of Joan's embroidered pieces has been given pride of place on the wall of a missionary church in Uganda.

Brrr... local surf lifesavers take a dip to raise funds

MEMBERS of Southerndown Surf Lifesaving Club saw in the new year by venturing into the icy sea to raise vital funds for the club.

Approximately 30 members entered into the sea, which was around the 6 degree mark, wearing nothing more than a swimming costume!

The members were watched by a large number of spectators.

Mention should be made of Angharad Llewellyn, who now lives in Western Australia and who, having just acclimatised from 37 degrees, completed the dip, which is a long



standing fixture in the Southerndown SLSC calendar.

For more information on Southerndown SLSC, please visit the website www.southerndownslsc.co.uk

ABOVE:
The brave souls who took a new year dip into the icy sea to raise much-needed funds for Southerndown Surf Lifesaving Club.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Dawidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

State of roads
Church, Llangan, LANES and main roads around the villages of Llangan and Treoes are in a bad way.

Pot holes seem to be appearing almost overnight and the area close to my home has been like a skating rink, caused mostly by the volume of water which runs off the fields.

Fortunately, I am an experienced driver (aged 78) so I quite easily negotiated the icy conditions.

The council gritter lorries seem to be out every night, but they are unable to cover every road.

Judging by the main complaint I receive, it is time the Vale Council started putting the roads in order.

Diary dates
AT St Canna's

Other services:
February 17, 7pm;
February 20, Lent groups at Fferm Goch, 11am-12.30pm; February 28, 11.15am Family service.

Club resumes

AT last, the Young at Heart Club is getting back to normality, following the poor weather conditions which prevented less able members from attending the meeting.

Club stalwart, Marje Adams, celebrated her birthday, and a warm welcome went to Mrs Norma Newman on her return to club meetings.

'Les girls' line up for society's 150th celebration!



'LES GIRLS' at the Principality Building Society's Porthcawl branch office are pictured by Keith Morgan getting into the swing of things, ready for the society's 150th anniversary celebration, which start in March. ABOVE: Left to right, Lisa, Gemma and June.

Read your GEM online: bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

TV switchover starts on 3 March.

Questions?
Call 08456 50 50 50 (English language), 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language).



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SANDVILLE SELF HELP CENTRE IS THE WINNER ON PORTHCAWL'S BIG NIGHT

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
KEITH E MORGAN**

THE GEM is delighted to publish further photographs from the Porthcawl fundraising extravaganza that is Twelfth Night.

Even in these economically challenged times, so many people wanted to support the event, which raises money for the Sandville Self-Help Centre, that they filled three rooms at the Hi-Tide Inn!



Ruth Madoc with the judges.



Some of the raffle team, Heather Deeks, Ann O'Keefe and Judith Davies with Arthur and Marilyn Beale and Dave (Indiana) Jones.



ABOVE: Organiser Arthur Beale with star guest Ruth Madoc.



ABOVE: The Owl and the Pussycat went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat... (Well, that's our guess!)



ABOVE: The 'Grand National' team – complete with fence.

TOWNSFOLK PUT ON THEIR OWN SHOW TO CELEBRATE FAVOURITE LOCAL CHARITY

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN



Read all about it! *The Daily News* entry.



ABOVE: 'We used to dress like this in the 60s'.



ABOVE: A tribute to Michael Jackson's *Thriller* video.



'Claim home heating grant' elderly are urged

OGMORE AM
Janice Gregory is reminding elderly residents that they are entitled to a grant from the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES), to heat their homes during the winter chill.

The Welsh Assembly Government cash provides a package of heating and insulation improvements up to the value of £3,600 (or £5,000 where oil central heating is required).

"Money is also available through the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target funding (CERT), which people facing fuel poverty can access via

their energy supplier; and the UK government pays out an extra £25 per week when the temperature drops to zero or below for seven consecutive days – for those on pension credit and other benefits," she pointed out.

"It is crucial that pensioners stay warm during this winter period and this financial help will go some way towards that. I urge all eligible residents to take advantage of these initiatives and wrap up warm this winter.

"Anyone who needs assistance or requires further information can contact my office on 01656 860034," the AM concluded.

Read your GEM online:
bridgend-today.co.uk or
porthcawl-today.co.uk

Ownership of Bosch land is a hot topic for local residents

THE GEM's revelation that Bosch owns 200 acres of land in the Vale has been greeted with surprise and dismay in the nearby village of Pendoylan.

The village is little more than two miles away from the factory, but for the locals, to whom the nearby countryside is precious, news that at least 164 acres has industrial planning, and that it could be more, is a blow.

Janette Llewellyn, a resident of Pendoylan for 31 years and part caretaker of the village's primary school, said: "This is a green belt area where it is hard to get planning permission!"

"Bosch have come here, people have worked for them, and then they say 'that's it' and they are off to another country."

"In the mean time, they have bought a lot of acreage and could make money on it - it seems a nice investment for them."

Mrs Llewellyn highlighted the irony that for local people to get planning permission was no easy task, while a large company had got it over a large area of land.

The former deputy

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

leader of the Vale Council, Tony Williams, has said South Glamorgan County Council granted planning on at least 164 acres, and last week, Bosch told The GEM: "Bosch understands the strong interest in the land as it would be ideal for future development in the region."

"Due to its prime location, we have already been contacted by a large number of interested parties."

"Bosch will inform all relevant parties in due course once a decision on the future of the site or a potential sale is made."

Mr Dave Samuel of Home Farm, Hensol, said local people did not know the full facts surrounding what had been agreed on the land, and also pointed out that the location of the factory had been flawed from the outset, with many people having to travel to it from parts of the Rhondda.

"It would have been much more sensible to locate it in the area in which people live."

"The prospect of jobs is vital in this day and age, but it must be balanced with preserving the countryside."

"I despair at things like this, but the older I get the more I realise that with big business you can't beat them."

Mr Samuel said it seemed "crazy" that Bosch had obtained planning over such a large area of land, and pointed out the precedence given to the factory - the main road from the M4 leads down to Bosch, with the route into the Vale being a mere side road off it!

Mr Kami Soroush, the owner of The New Red Lion Gastropub at the centre of Pendoylan, asked whether it was right that a company that was possibly leaving hundreds of people without jobs should profit from local land.

"Is it the action of a reputable company to leave with golden coins in their back pocket if more than 800 people have lost jobs?" he questioned.

VALUABLE

Workers are still hoping for an eleventh hour reprieve, but Dr Ian Johnson, the Plaid Cymru parliamentary candidate for the Vale, expressed concern that planning permission may be granted for major developments if Bosch moves on.

He said: "The Bosch plant and its surrounding area are in a highly valuable location for developers - near to the M4 and in one of south Wales' most beautiful areas."

"If it is true that there is a large amount of land owned by Bosch then it is likely to be up for sale soon and would make an obvious target for both industrial and housing development."

"While I would welcome continued use or re-developing of the Bosch factory area for industrial or mechanical work, and to replace the jobs that are sadly being lost, I would be opposed to large scale building in this greenfield site."

"Residents of Pendoylan and the Ely Valley recently fought a hard-won battle against the area being used for an airport link road that would have seen large amounts of green fields going under tarmac and the area's character destroyed."

"I was very glad when Business and Transport Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, backed their campaign and refused the airport link through the rural Vale."

Charity row for Haiti



Allen Reid.

A Vale man did his bit for the Haiti earthquake victims by joining a team to tackle a 'one-million metre' charity row.

Allen Reid was one of a team of five personal trainers who attempted the challenge, and shoppers in John Lewis, Cardiff, were able to watch him sweat and strain as he made his contribution.

The attempt started at 6am on January 30, and finished at 7.05 am on Monday, February 1, and aimed to raise £10,000.

A total of around 60 local people also joined the challenge.

Jason Korinek, a spokesman for the trainers, told The GEM that the five trainers had covered about 200 kilometres of the total 1,000K that makes up the million metres.

Allen Reid said: "Having lived in Bonvilston for the majority of my life I know the area well, as I worked in the Aubrey Arms for more than a year."

"I recently joined the JJ Fitness & Wellbeing organisation, who organised the charity row, after gaining an Advanced Diploma in Personal Training."

NEWS FROM BRIDGEND CHESS CLUB

The Borg slip up at Penarth Piers

THE Bridgend Borg slipped from third in Division Two of the East Glamorgan Chess League to third from bottom, following a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Penarth Piers.

The division is so competitive this year that just three points separate six teams, all vying for promotion and trying to avoid the trapdoor to Division Three.

The Borg went to Penarth with high hopes after their recent success, but the tide soon turned as the Piers outgunned the Borg on the top boards.

Mike Cram, playing on board one with the white pieces, came unstuck against David Sully. Mark Jones lost to Russell Dodington and Mike Servini saw off any resistance from Mike Kearns.

The Borg hit back with wins from Neil Stuart and Damon Davies, but it was too little too late.

Invincible East Glamorgan in victory jamboree

THE Welsh Chess Union's under-1800 jamboree proved as competitive as

always. Teams from three of the Welsh zones converged on Ebbw Vale to compete for the crown. There were two places for Bridgend's Neil



Stuart and Damon Davies, who featured in the East Glamorgan team against Gwent, and West Wales.

In round one, Neil Stuart played Ron Williams and found himself immersed in the complicated

Slav defence. Having been on the backfoot for most of the game, Stuart managed to gain some parity, as both players in time trouble concluded the game a draw.

Damon Davies showed his endgame prowess to beat West Wales player Albert Easton. An even contest throughout, Damon turned the tables on Albert in the king and pawn endgame, seizing the opposition and marching on for the win.

With the scores East Glamorgan (7.5), West Wales (4) and Gwent (3.5) at the break, undefeated and with five wins and five draws, East Glamorgan took a healthy lead into the afternoon session.

A similar pattern in the afternoon saw Neil gain another draw and also Damon, against David Buttell and Steve Vickery

Entries to: 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. e-mail entries to: andrew@bridgend-chessclub.org.uk

Andrew Trickey

Cancer Research

THE Cancer Research UK's Porthcawl committee will hold a coffee morning on February 19 at THE RAFA Club at 11am (coffee, tea and biscuits £1). Stalls and raffle.

Where will pool cash come from?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He said: "We have shown our commitment as a town council to this pool because of its importance to the community."

"However, there is no doubt that it was neglected over many years by the borough council, and it must never be allowed to get into the position again. We must have a long term maintenance plan."

A full review of swimming pools in the borough is underway as part of a wider review of leisure facilities.

The special report to the cabinet on the situation with the pool revealed that Maesteg has the lowest usage of all the borough pools with 133,297 attendances in 2008-09.

This compares to 155,703 in Pyle; 157,235 at Pencoed and 214,321 at Ynysawdre, but this also has a large gymnasium and dance studio.

Maesteg pool cost taxpayers £194,000 to

run that year after all income was taken into account - but Ynysawdre required the largest subsidy, with £202,000.

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Porthcawl Council calls for Tidy Towns projects

SUGGESTIONS for small-scale projects to enhance areas within Porthcawl under the Tidy Towns Initiative, are being invited by the town council.

The council was asked by BCBC to submit further schemes for consideration, following the successful first stage of the three-year project.

Under this, Porthcawl had the old play area at the back of Lewis Place upgraded.

Coun Gerald Davies said that the council had been involved with a successful partnership with the borough council.

He said: "The Lewis Place play area is an example of something successfully carried out. We were one of the first

councils to benefit from this initiative. We also had some work done to the bandstand and benches under this scheme."

Coun Davies remarked that the council was now being asked to come up with some new proposals to take advantage of further funding.

He continued: "There's an opportunity to use this initiative to replace some benches with others that are resistant to vandalism."

"Also, when we had the Blue Flag presentation, it was the one and only time that the council has decorated the shelter near Ocean View Flats. These shelters are among the first things visitors see along the Eastern Promenade."

Council leader David Deere stated that the council should invite out-

side organisations to come up with some schemes that the town council could support.

"This is an opportunity to bring money into the town. You have highlighted some things that are worthwhile."

The council should agenda this so that members could crystallise their ideas.

He went on: "We must also give the public time to make their ideas known to us. We must involve the whole town in this debate."

Coun Deere was backed by Coun Chris Smart, who said that councillors could not know of everything that

needed doing. "We must write to organisations like the Civic Trust, Chamber of Trade, Lions, Shout, Rotary and others. We must grasp this opportunity with both hands."

Coun David Newton-Williams felt that waste ground behind the museum in John Street could be used for an open market which would bring people into town.

"The Museum Society has thought of this but has never had the money," he added.

It was agreed to contact outside groups and also find out the time-scale for submitting applications for funding.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS BACK ON LAND INQUIRY

A REPORT on the public inquiry that has taken place into the compulsory purchase orders on land needed for the Metrix development has been given to Llantwit Major Town Council.

Coun Gwyn John said that he had attended the inquiry, along with Coun Ann Matthews and Coun Bob Gant, representing the town council.

"I felt that we all got our points over very well. We made a number of arguments against the need for the northern access road, and we spoke about the impact on the people living in Monmouth Way."

"We also opposed the need for service family accommodation to be built on land at Tremains Farm,

where Metrix and WAG want to build 169 houses.

"These houses will be isolated from the others being built inside the camp. The inspector noted our points and the QC representing the Welsh Assembly Government did not press us."

"We were fighting to get one access road built and not two, and that one should be the southern access road."

"They will spend millions on the northern access road, ripping up the countryside and also building houses there and it's ridiculous."

Coun John said that they made it clear that the town council supported the Defence Training College but they asked about guarantees for future employment in view of the debacle over the Red

Dragon hangar.

"All that money was spent but WAG did not ensure that the jobs were there that should have been."

Coun John reported that Couns Gant and Matthews attended the site visit with the inspector.

"We were also concerned about the need for money to be spent on road improvements at the Llantwit end because of the increase in traffic we will experience. But most of the money being spent is centred on Five Mile Lane and also on the bend at Aberthaw."

"Our end will need support because most of the extra traffic will come this way," he said.

"I hope that the inspector took this on board. He did a very thorough inspection, visiting the entire area, and we will get his recommendation in due course."

Boys' Brigade's chess success

THE four-man 'Masterteam' from Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade travelled to Torquay where they took on Torquay, Gloucester and Paignton.

After coming second, they now go forward to the England and Wales semi-finals. The winner will go through to the UK final.

Meanwhile, the three-man chess team travelled to Bovey Tracey in Devon. After the first set of games, they were 2-1 up and the second set of games saw it 3 all.

The final set of games saw Llantwit up 4-3, then 4-4, and the final game went to Llantwit for a 5-

4 win.

The team now travel to Kingston on Thames to play against the 14th Kingston and Merton Company.

"I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing both teams every success as they represent not only Llantwit Major but also Wales."

Saturday, February 6, is the date for the 'Big Jumble Sale,' in the town hall, Llantwit Major, at 2pm (admission 20p).

Any items for the sale can be brought to the town hall between 10am and midday, or can be collected by contacting Andy on 01446 796374.

A Wellsbury (Company Captain)

Is 30mph speed limit permanent?

COULD someone please enlighten me about this matter - because even after 'phoning two local police stations, neither could tell me if it is true that there is now a permanent 30mph speed limit along the Cowbridge bypass?

After all the years it has been there - and recently had tens of thousands of pounds of our money spent on it for resurfacing (the rainwater drainage is still abysmal!), has someone finally decided that this draconian limit be imposed?

I have absolutely no doubt whatsoever that at sometime in the future each vehicle traversing that carriageway will have to be preceded by someone walking along carrying a red flag.

Somebody please tell me I'm wrong!

J Warner, Llantrithyd

LLANTWIT IN BRIEF

THE Mayor of Llantwit's charity jazz night will take place at the Llantonian Hall on May 1.

It will feature the Victoriana Jazz Band. Further details available nearer the date.

THE number of crimes committed in Llantwit Major in the past 40 days, including the Christmas period, were 34, of which 23 were detected.

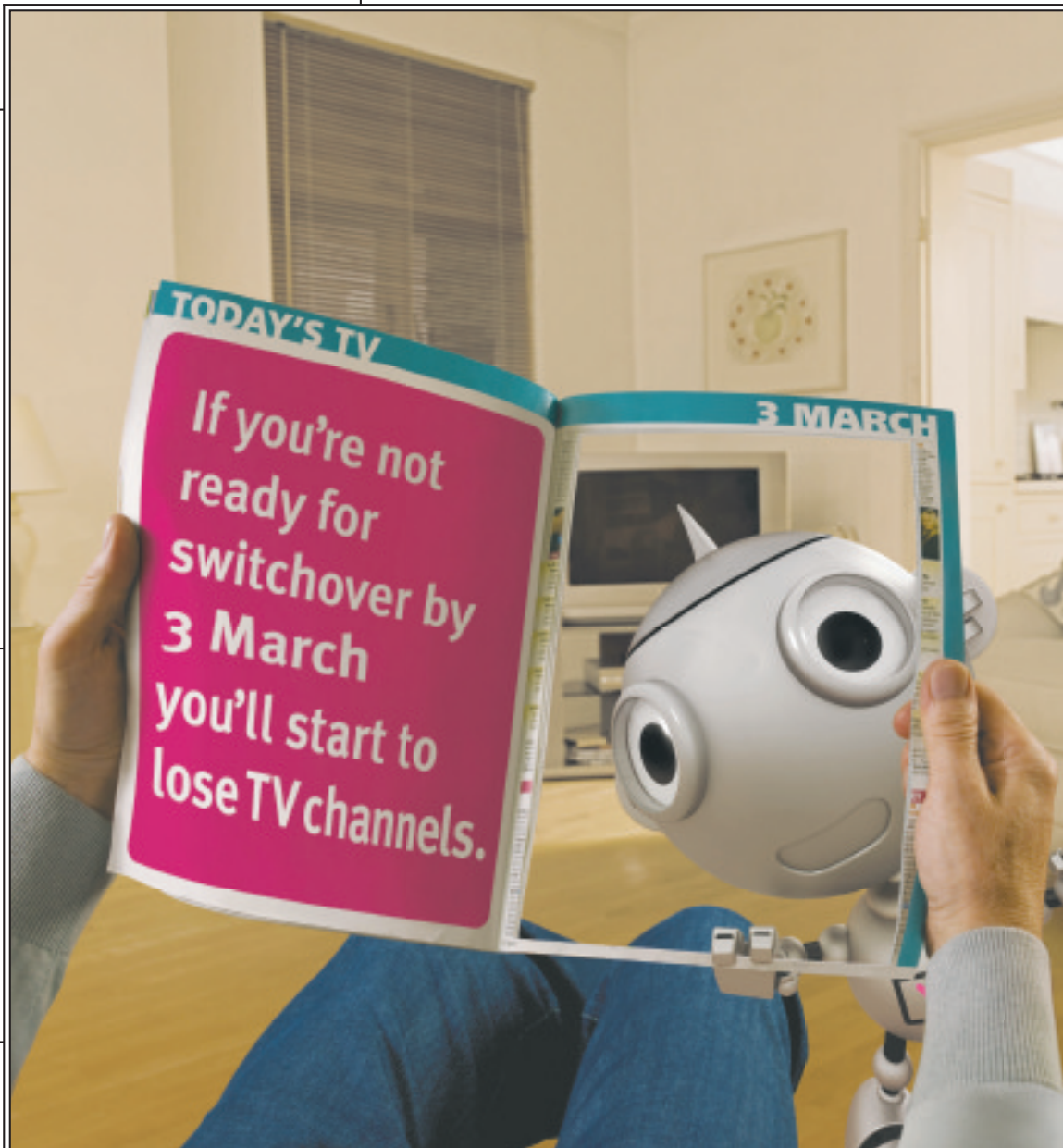
PC Colin Malone said that this was a 70 per cent

detection rate.

LLANTWIT Major town council has decided against giving a grant to Music in the Vale; but members agreed to give £100 to Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower.

A MEETING is to take place with shopkeepers in Boverton Road about the regeneration scheme.

Landowners will be involved as well as town councillors and members of the town study group.



On 3 March any TV that is not ready to receive a digital signal will start losing channels at switchover - BBC Two will be the first to go. Then on 31 March the remaining analogue channels will be switched off and the rest of the digital services launched.

Questions? Call 08456 50 50 50 (English language) or 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language) or visit digitaluk.co.uk

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2010 FIXTURES



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RBS Six Nations tournament kicks off this weekend...

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See The GEM's preview on the back page.

DATE	KO	HOME	AWAY	VENUE
Saturday, February 6	2.30pm	Ireland	v Italy	Croke Park
Saturday, February 6	5pm	England	v WALES	Twickenham
Sunday, February 7	3pm	Scotland	v France	Murrayfield
Saturday, February 13	2pm	WALES	v Scotland	Millennium Stadium
Saturday, February 13	4.30pm	France	v Ireland	Stade de France
Sunday, February 14	2.30pm	Italy	v England	Stadio Flaminio
Friday, February 26	8pm	WALES	v France	Millennium Stadium
Saturday, February 27	1.30pm	Italy	v Scotland	Stadio Flaminio
Saturday, February 27	4pm	England	v Ireland	Twickenham
Saturday, March 13	2.30pm	Ireland	v WALES	Croke Park
Sunday, March 13	5pm	Scotland	v England	Murrayfield
Saturday, March 14	2.30pm	France	v Italy	Stade de France
Saturday, March 20	2.30pm	WALES	v Italy	Millennium Stadium
Saturday, March 20	5pm	Ireland	v Scotland	Croke Park
Saturday, March 20	7.45pm	France	v England	Stade de France



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Lots going on...
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Romantic Dining...

VALENTINE'S 4 course DINNER
Sunday, 14th February 6.00 - 9.00 pm
Antipasti - Cured meats and bread, served with olives
and cherry tomatoes drizzled in balsamic syrup.
Chilli King Prawn Skewers - Two juicy king prawn
skewers served on a bed of salad leaves.
Moules Marinere - Mussels in a white wine and garlic
fresh served with two slices of crusty organic brioche.
Blue Cheese & Walnut Souffle - Served with salad leaves,
roasted cherry tomatoes finished with a balsamic glaze.

Blackcurrant Sorbet

Lovers Spaghetti Bolognese - Quality beef mince in a
rich tomato bolognese sauce on a mound of spaghetti
served with garlic bread.
Sirloin of Beef - Tender roast sirloin of beef served with
fondant potatoes and hollandaise sauce.
Roast Duck - Tasty duck breast, pan fried, roasted, resting
on roasted sweet potatoes served with a fresh plum sauce.
Noisettes of Lamb - Local noisettes of lamb pan fried with
fresh mint served on a bed of creamy garlic mashed potatoes.
Spinach & Ricotta Tortellini - Fresh tortellini pasta filled
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Sat, 20th February - THE FISHERMEN
Sat, 6th March - AUBREY PARSONS

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Sunday Roast 12.00 noon - 4pm
SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DINNER
Served 5pm - 9pm

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College lights a candle to mark the Holocaust Memorial Day

BARRY College commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27, when a lit candle was placed in reception at the college's main sites in Colcot Road, the Cardiff Construction Training Centre and the International Centre for Aerospace Training.

The college's student intranet. The college's Welsh Baccalaureate learners watched the film and discussed genocide and its impact, before writing film scripts and director's notes for a piece about Holocaust Memorial Day.

The college's vice-principal Kay Martin, said: "Every year, Holocaust Memorial Day urges everyone to pause and reflect upon what can happen when racism, prejudice and exclusionary behaviour are allowed to go unchecked.

"It is vital that we recognise how we can learn from the lessons of the past and how they can play a part in our communities today.

"Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the tragic loss of life in the

genocides of the Second World War and more recently in Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia and Darfur.

"It presents an opportunity for people to honour the innocent victims of such conflicts, while providing education opportunities to try to prevent future acts of mass murder.

"Genocide does not just happen. It starts when we no longer celebrate and respect the differences between us."

Holocaust Memorial Day was marked on January 27 - the 65th anniversary of the day that the Soviet Army liberated the largest Nazi death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau, where millions of Jews died.

Bridgend MP signs House of Commons 'book of commitment'

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon pledged her support for Holocaust Memorial Day by signing a Book of Commitment in the House of Commons to honour those who perished under the Nazis.



ABOVE: The Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, signs the Holocaust Memorial Day book of commitment.

"With January 27 marking the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and extermination camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Holocaust Educational Trust placed the book of commitment in the Commons."

"It gives MPs the opportunity to remember those who were persecuted and murdered during the Holocaust - and to support a 'Legacy of Hope', learning from survivors' experiences to help create a future free

from hatred and prejudice," she explained.

"The MPs paid tribute to those remarkable individuals who survived the appalling events of the Holocaust, and have since dedicated their lives to educating younger generations

about the dangers of allowing persecution and intolerance to take hold in society," Mrs Moon commented.

The aim of Holocaust Memorial Day was to motivate people - individually and collectively, to ensure that the horrendous crimes, racism and victimisation committed during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides are neither forgotten nor repeated.

"Holocaust Survivors are extraordinary people. We have a duty to them to pass on the lessons of the Holocaust to future generations.

"Holocaust Memorial Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the legacy of Holocaust survivors, to commemorate the millions who died under Hitler's regime, and commit to a future free from racism and discrimination."

Town ward focuses on anti-social behaviour

RESIDENTS in Barry Court ward recently met at their bi-monthly PACT meetings to discuss local issues with PC Darran Fenton, PCSO Toni Treweeks, and local councillors Richard Bertin and Bronwen Brooks.

It was decided that the January priorities for the ward would be anti-social behaviour, fly tipping in the land between Robbins Lane and Westbury Close, and youth annoyance in Gilbert Street.

The next meeting is to be held at the Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry, at 7.30pm on March 11.

For further information, call either the Court police team on 01446 731623 or find them online at www.ourbobby.com

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THE FIRST MINISTER GIVES HIS BACKING TO 'LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ' PROJECT

STUDENTS from across Wales will visit Auschwitz-Birkenau in March, to learn about the history of the Holocaust and its impact on the world we live in today.

The 'Lessons From Auschwitz Project' is run by the Holocaust Educational Trust which received an £80,000 grant from the Welsh Assembly Government to fund, over time, two

students between the ages of 16 and 18, from every school and college in Wales, to take part in the project.

The four-part course consists of two seminars, a one-day visit to Poland and a special project which gives students the opportunity to pass on the lessons they have learned to fellow students and the communities they live in.

First Minister Carwyn Jones AM said: "It's important that we are able to support this project. It is vital that

we remember on Holocaust Memorial Day what can happen if prejudice and discrimination go unchecked. These lessons are as relevant today as they were 60 years ago."

Education Minister, Leighton Andrews, said: "This project gives students the opportunity to learn about a harrowing but crucial chapter of European history.

"Lessons From Auschwitz gives young people the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge of what happened

during this terrible period. The scale and devastation of the Holocaust should never be forgotten."

Karen Pollock, chief executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust said: "We are delighted that the Welsh Assembly Government has recognised the value of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz Project'.

"We look forward to working with them to give Welsh students the opportunity to take part in this unique educational opportunity.

"The project gives students the chance to hear a Holocaust survivor share their testimony, take part in a one-day visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, and consider the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust.

"We hope that as a result, Welsh students will become ambassadors in their own communities, raising awareness of the past and challenging prejudice and racism today," he concluded.

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Popular toy and train sale arrives in Barry!

THE first Chris Dyer fair of 2010 is also the first of the year in south Wales, at Barry Leisure Centre on Sunday February 7, from 10.30am to 3pm.

This show marks the first birthday of the move to the leisure centre in Greenwood Street. The extra space, superior lighting and warm environment have all helped

to establish the show as one of the leading Chris Dyer events with traders and public, alike.

The ample free parking is also greatly appreciated, as is the excellent catering which is brought in for the show.

There is always pressure to book tables at Barry, with many traders travelling long distances.

Apart from stallholders from all parts of Wales, others come from as far away as the Wirral in the north and Surrey in the south-east, as well

as many other parts of England.

Organiser Chris Dyer said this week: "The weather in January affected many events and there were a number of cancellations, including some of the larger shows around the UK. Now our regular buyers, as well as traders, are keen to get business moving again after some difficult weeks."

"I think that the big key is value, and I know that most of our stallholders are cutting their prices to the bone, in order to retain cash-flow and also to make their customers happy."

As always, the traders are also very keen to buy, exchange and part-exchange, and it may be well worth bringing your surplus items along on the day, if only for a free valuation.

For details, 01643 702757 and 07966 694579; website: www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk

DON'T MISS THE... TOY AND TRAIN SALE

SUNDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 2010
10.30am - 3.00pm

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Non-members are most welcome. Guest membership for the evening is just £6. Please contact us to book, as some events are limited numbers only!

For more information on the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, contact members@vwbn.org.uk

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Winter warning to look after your paintwork

MOST motorists understand that keeping car paintwork in good condition prevents rust, both extending the life of their car and maintaining its value.

However, while repairing major damage is a given, minor damage such as scratches, scuffs and bumps are often left, either due to concerns about cost, or the inconvenience of having the car off the road for a couple of days.

Motoring experts agree that, particularly in winter, minor damage can turn into a major headache.

Stewart Topp, AA Patrol of the Year advised: "Check for stone chips, as rust forms very quickly in the cold, damp weather," while Paul Jarvis of leading automotive paintwork repair specialist, ChipsAway, added:

"It certainly pays to repair even small scuffs and scratches, as these can spread into larger areas of rust, ultimately costing you dearly if left untreated."

ChipsAway uses a unique system, which can repair small areas of damage within only a few hours and at a fraction of the cost of traditional body shop repair methods.

What's more, because ChipsAway operates fully equipped mobile workshops, Paul can come to your home (or your place of work) and do the repair at your convenience, restoring your car to showroom condition, prolonging its life and improving its resale value.

For further advice about winter motoring, visit the AA website, or contact your local ChipsAway representative, Paul Jarvis, on 07904 840202 (head office 0800 028 7878) for more information about maintaining your paintwork.

Don't let a scratch on your car put a dent in your pocket!

Stone chips, scratches and bumper scuffs can now be repaired same day at your convenience and at a fraction of 'Body Shop' costs.

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St John Abulance Cadets fly flag for Wales Down Under

TWO local St John Wales cadets are among four selected to represent Wales at an International Youth Festival in New Zealand.

They are Jasmine Vincent, from the Barry Rescue Division, and Samantha Evans, a member of the Bridgend Division.

The Christchurch festival, which is taking place between January 25 and February 1, includes cultural, social, educational and sporting activities.

Based at Lincoln University (NZ), more than 500 St John members from across the globe will be attending the week-long festival and Brackla, said she couldn't wait for the trip.

"I'm really excited and also a bit nervous but I'm really looking forward to meeting new people."

"This will be my first time in New Zealand and I can't wait!"

Fifteen-year-old Jasmine, of Cadroxton, Barry, also said she was looking forward to experiencing the New Zealand lifestyle.

"I'm looking forward to bungee jumping and swimming with the dol-



ABOVE: Jasmine Vincent and Samantha Evans, who will be representing Wales.

phins. I'm really excited!"

The dedicated cadets will take part in a range of competitions to test their first aid and communication skills.

Keith Dunn, chief executive for St John

Cymru Wales, commented: "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our young people to experience first hand how St John operates in a different country and to help improve their first aid skills."

Residents are evacuated after mystery blaze

PARTS of an empty valley junior school are to be demolished following a fire.

The blaze broke out in Blaencraau Junior School, Caerau, on Monday night, leading to the evacuation of residents from 30 houses nearby while firefighters from a wide area dealt with it.

The school has been empty since January when pupils transferred to the new Caerau Primary School built in the village.

The school was due to be demolished anyway in March because of fears about vandalism and its owners, Bridgend County Borough

Council, will bring forward the work on those parts of the school damaged by the fire.

Council leader Mel Nott praised the emergency services for their prompt action in dealing with the fire and in protecting local residents.

He said that if the evacuation had been for longer, the council would have opened a designated rest centre at Maesteg Sports Centre, where residents could have waited for the all-clear to return to their homes.

The blaze is being investigated by police and officers are working with the fire service to discover the cause of the blaze.

Police are appealing for anyone who saw anything suspicious at the school on Monday evening to telephone them on 01656 679518, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

OTHER POOLS MAKE TIME Swimming lessons will be relocated from Maesteg Pool

SWIMMING classes and activities that were taking place at Maesteg Pool are being relocated.

Maesteg Pool is closed for repairs and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) is trying to fit classes in at other pools.

Most people taking swimming lessons are prepared to travel to other pools and Ynysawdre's weekend timetable is being reworked to offer swimming lessons to current Maesteg pupils.

There will also be more public swimming available on Saturday afternoons.

BCBC cabinet member Coun Lyn Morgan said that the council wants to do all it can to keep young people in

the valley committed to swimming - ready for when the pool re-opens later this year.

He said: "This has meant of lot of juggling with lessons and timetables."

"Our other pools are very busy and lessons are popular, so it has not been easy. But we think we have come up with a good temporary solution to minimise the disruption for Maesteg swimmers."

Coun Morgan said that Maesteg parents had been very co-operative over the closure, and he said everyone realised that it was only done as a last resort to keep the children safe.

He added that the public will be kept up to date with developments via leaflets, posters and website information.

Maesteg burglary spate warning

HOUSEHOLDERS in Maesteg are being urged to be vigilant after a spate of burglaries.

Police have said that there have been six burglaries in houses in the West Ward, mainly as a result of insecure premises.

They are urging people to ensure that their windows are closed and doors locked at night.

Pencoed's youth centre is delayed

PLANS to build a new youth centre in Pencoed are on hold - while councillors hold a site meeting.

The meeting originally scheduled to take place had to be postponed because of the snow, and this has delayed a decision on the application from the Bridgend Youth Service for the new facility.

It will now be discussed at the next meeting of the development control committee.

The Hairy Bloke team are celebrating first birthday

THE HAIRY BLOKE discount furniture store opened its doors one year ago this week on the popular retail park at Culverhouse Cross, next door to PC World.

Paula and James, the owners, have had an impressive first year.

This is mainly due to quality furniture from top brands at excellent prices.

Also, the next day delivery, or even

same day delivery, has proved popular with customers. Paula and James would like to thank all their customers for their support, many who have returned time and time again and recommended Hairy Bloke discount furniture store to friends and family.

Call in and view the new extended ranges of quality, branded furniture covering the 10,000 sq ft showroom with easy parking.

You won't be disappointed, you will be celebrating the delights of the Hairy Bloke!

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DELIVERY

NEWTON WELL PROBE: Porthcawl Town Council turns detective to find out who owns patch of land

PORTHCAWL Town Council is to investigate the ownership of St John's Well enclosure at Newton Green, after hearing that work is urgently needed on trees there.

Mr Bob Thomas of St John's Court, Beach Road, wrote on behalf of all the owners of St John's Court to say that their property borders the land enclosing St John's Well.

He said that two mature trees in the enclosure – a sycamore and a silver birch – needed attention.

The sycamore needs to be reduced in size and the birch is being strangled by ivy and there is a danger of it rotting and falling over.

Residents have consulted the BCBC tree officer Eilian Jones, as all the trees within a conservation area are protected.

However, an application to carry out work can only be submitted by

the land owner, and the land has not been registered with the Land Registry.

Mr Thomas then consulted local historian Peter Henry and said that his researches reveal that the enclosure was handed over to the Porthcawl Town Council and the trees are the council's responsibility.

Coun Wendy Ingram said she had visited the area and one tree needed lopping while the other looked dead.

It was unclear who owned the land but Coun John Bunker said that the ownership of the area had transferred to the town council from Porthcawl UDC in 1974.

"We are responsible for the enclosure and we planted the trees," he said. "We should speak to the tree officer to see what work needs doing."

Coun Norah Clarke pointed out that as this was a conservation area, planning permission for the work would be needed.

If the land did belong to the town council, it should be registered with

the Land Registry.

Coun Chris Smart was surprised the land had transferred from the old Porthcawl UDC to the town council, as all other land and property went to Ogwr Borough Council and later BCBC.

"This must have been agreed by all parties back in 1974. We need to get a tree surgeon to inspect these trees."

He added that the clerk must also investigate the ownership issues.

Coun Gerald Davies was "very interested" in this and to have had his memory refreshed about what happened:

"The other ancient wells are under different criteria and are not under the authority of this council."

"We have no responsibility for the wells at the bottom of Nottage Hill or at Moor Lane."

"In 1974, part of Griffin Park was given to us and not Ogwr. Despite having the utmost respect for Coun Bunker's memory, we should do some investigation and then take it

further.

"We must have a formal report to say that it is our responsibility and we can then carry out the work necessary and also find out what liabilities we have."

Coun Rosemary Deere stated that the well was locked and the keys were at the council offices. Coun Bunker explained it was the council that put the locks on.

It was agreed to await a full report and in the meantime, to inform Mr Thomas of what's happening.

Porthcawl in brief

A WARNING about the future of the summer holiday playschemes in the borough has been given to Porthcawl Town Council.

Coun Norah Clarke said that there was going to be a drastic cut back in the budget allocated by BCBC this year and the town council had set aside £1,500 to contribute.

It was agreed to ask BCBC officers to make a presentation on the situation.

The Porthcawl Summer Musical event will be held on Saturday, May 29, and will have a budget of £1,500.

PORTHCAWL Carnival will take place on July 24 and the theme is 'Animated Movies'.

The town council float will have the Magic Roundabout as its theme. The council will spend £250 on the carnival.

the progress they have made to date maintaining the road network"

A spokesman for BCBC said: "The cost of repairing potholes caused by the recent severe weather is likely to be around £100,000."

"Many potholes are being reported directly by members of the public, and we are prioritising repairs as quickly as possible."

"We will also need to repair damage caused by the cold weather to footways, so the Welsh Assembly Government funding will be most welcome."

Council must wait to count the pothole cash

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) is waiting to see how much cash it will receive from the Assembly for emergency repairs to potholes that were caused by the big freeze in January.

The Deputy Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones AM announced on February 1 that local authorities will be receiving an extra £2.75 million to help them tackle the numerous potholes left by the recent snow and heavy rain.

As there are 22 local authorities, each authority might expect to receive more than £100,000, but the exact split has not yet been revealed.

The money, which is additional to the annual grant already allocated, will allow work on these localised weaknesses to begin immediately.

Mr Jones said: "This extra money will help local authorities address the problems caused by the recent unforeseen weather conditions."

"It will allow them to tackle the potholes left by the recent adverse weather, and to continue

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 603.

● **£2000:** 293581.
● **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500, was not claimed this week.**
● **£10:** 885786; 187730; 705657; 560934; 188798; 701971; 321690; 818295; 848318; 223453; 487072; 149910; 805443; 617161; 755037; 721115; 265174; 341488; 560374; 594155.

● **£5:** 760213; 201436; 287167; 769923; 785477; 134500; 235492; 867744; 357506; 871345; 604034; 681687; 297807; 298394; 914282;

881363; 882942; 470511; 716542; 810712; 689088; 105525; 757160; 719199; 629371; 179404; 747963; 600556; 669698; 393685; 814365; 894143; 305336; 723634; 108212; 878358; 384402; 746910; 490618; 442742; 787593; 116056; 590830; 632829; 822980; 542578; 519443; 140247; 527999; 890521; 603238; 570355; 430760; 707503; 226462; 275192; 717303; 234482; 765168; 416036.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.
For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 602.

● **£2000:** 739273.
● **The rollover, which now stands at £1,000 was not claimed this week.**
● **£10:** 196627; 823551; 948747; 310794; 567252; 495078; 616141; 359591; 425716; 891428; 756049; 673464; 103407; 894621; 356014; 829606; 382098; 266244; 585072; 716543.

● **£5:** 599116; 209842; 584870; 895225; 287973; 526207; 02920 672062.

692772; 555716; 654802; 197214; 114938; 313368; 865101; 487474; 235000; 702416; 387694; 828834; 751629; 293841; 253749; 189430; 285305; 149494; 948028; 473418; 111690; 827693; 872393; 433788; 788270; 203695; 456590; 894637; 393018; 237529; 671324; 796808; 106441; 178843; 781410; 875170; 341117; 892848; 484650; 542412; 857136; 684027; 800194; 381815; 604612; 373178; 300257.

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lets en croute'. Still available on the new menu is the ever-so-popular two meals for £10 – something which cannot be beaten! As The Six Bells sustains a well-deserved reputation for the place to dine, it is rapidly becoming a well-known party venue. Many special events are planned for 2010, including a regular pub quiz. To receive further information or to book, call 01446 710229.

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VALENTINE'S
14th

Romance at a Glance

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The 'chocolate orange experience' combines a luxury chocolate facial with a relaxing orange infused back, neck and shoulders massage for only £25. But if chocolate is not your thing, visit our website – www.balancebody.co.uk – where you will find an extensive range of luxury treatments that will help you make this Valentine's Day extra special!

Calling all men...Be a Valentine's Day winner!

MEN have a particular problem to overcome when it comes to getting cards or presents

for birthdays, anniversaries, and Valentine's Day – it's called laziness!

Valentine's Day presents a real conundrum because all the other family events throughout the year will be dealt with quite reliably by a wife or girlfriend.

A man can hardly ask his beloved to get her own Valentine's Day card – although it wouldn't be a surprise if there was a man low

enough to attempt it!

The two excuses most men rustle up when they have forgotten the season of love and romance are: "I've been so busy", or the even less original, and rather lame, "I forgot".

So, for once, this Valentine's Day why not surprise your wife or fiancée with your efficiency?

There are no excuses, because there is 10 full days to go until

February 14.

Next time you are out, make it a priority to buy a card and gift, or take a moment to book a bouquet of flowers over the phone.

For those still blessed with some money during the recession, a weekend away will really delight the missus!

So men, make 2010 the year you made your sex proud – and don't forget Valentine's Day!

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Tortilla Espanola: A classic Spanish omelette mixed with potato	£3.95
MEAT:	
Chorizo al vino: Spicy Spanish sausage, pan fried in olive oil and red wine	£3.75
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FISH:	
Boquerones Fritos: Tiny deep-fried whitebait, served with a lemon wedge	£4.50
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Mount Sorrel Hotel offers more in 2010

THE Mount Sorrel Hotel in Barry is one of the nicest venues for a romantic Valentine's dinner dance – so book now for Saturday, February 13.

Mount Sorrel Hotel is one of Barry's favourite places for events in 2010, with many top tribute nights such as Barry Manilow, Michael Jackson, Neil Diamond, Beach Boys, Freddie Mercury, plus many more planned for the forthcoming months.

The Impulse health and fitness club at The Mount Sorrel has a special offer until the end of March – every person who pays for six months subscription in advance gets a £100 registration for free!

This exclusive club offers a heated indoor pool, sauna and various pieces of exercise equipment.

For the hotel that offers a lot, lot more, call into the Mount Sorrel Hotel, or call 01446 740069.

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Saturday 13th February
Romantic 3-Course Meal, plus coffee & mints and a gift for the ladies.
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Saturday February 27th, 2010
3 Course Dinner, Coffee and Mints.
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Out and About with The GEM

'Special moments' earn Erin and Verity the 2010 GEM/Ferris scholarships

THE two latest winners of The GEM/Ferris Entertainment scholarships have been announced – Erin Hayes, aged 12, from Llantwit Major, and Verity Campbell, aged 13, from Barry.

The two girls join Jimmy Webster from Cardiff as the three 2010 recipients.

Erin attends Llantwit Major Comprehensive and she explained that the stage experience gained at the school had held her in good stead when Peter Ferris held the scholarship masterclasses in Penarth.

"I have done stage acting with Mrs Smith at the school which gave me confidence, although I was still a little nervous on the day.



Acting coach Peter Ferris with Erin Hayes (left) and Verity Campbell.

"I was keen to work with Peter, take on any challenges and succeed.

"Winning the scholarship was a surprise. I'd like to pursue acting in the future.

"At school, I've taken part in productions such as 'We Will Rock You'

which is a great show to be in." She is also hoping to be involved in *Les Miserables*, the school's next show.

Erin's mother Catherine said: "Before she went to the masterclass, she read up on what Peter had done in the past. Winning the scholarship is a great opportunity for her to learn more about performing."

Verity Campbell's proud mother Yvette said: "We're very proud that she won the scholarship. I think performing

courses like this encourage children's confidence, give them an ability to speak publicly and teach them how to present themselves."

Verity, a pupil at Bryn Hafren in Barry, would consider making a career out of acting too.

"It is something I'd like to do in the future. Actually, it was a big shock to me when I won the scholarship because I felt my second performance wasn't as good as the first.

"I was slightly nervous when I arrived at the masterclass, but then met Jimmy (Webster) my friend and felt better."

Penarth acting coach, Peter Ferris, told The GEM: "Verity performed brilliantly in both of the masterclasses we held and in a scene with Jimmy created a very believable relationship.

"In Erin's scene she found a way of saying a line that was very truthful and really funny.

"Both of these moments left a memorable impression which won each of them a scholarship."

Vale woman's Cardiff display

A VALE artist's work is on show in Cardiff as part of an all-woman show to celebrate International Women's day.

The show runs until March 9 at the Off The Wall gallery. Natalie Hooper, who lives in Marcross, said: "It is fit-

ting that my work celebrates the female form.

Natalie has just gained a distinction from City & Guilds in Printmaking but is best known for her life drawings and photography.

She said: "The camera is a creative tool which I use to exploit moments that are gone before I could draw them - and it's such fun.

"My years as a teacher and as a mum of four young children do help."

She has just moved to Marcross from Bedfordshire with her Neath-born husband and four daughters.

She added: "It's new arena for me and very exciting. Wales is wonderful and I have had such a warm and friendly welcome."

Rhooose Lifeguards pass national qualifications

R H O O S E Lifeguard members Jake Connolly, Emma Cordy, Theo Frangoulis, Charles Grandfield, Storm Morham, Rhys Perry and Alex Varney passed their National Rescue Standard bronze qualification last Saturday.

The awards not only indicate that they have the skills necessary to become beach lifeguards but also allow them to compete competitively for Great Britain in numerous lifesaving championships around the world.

Also Sarah Bryant and Samantha Davies (both within the masters' age group) received their Surf Lifesavers (Welsh Masters) awards, allowing them to coach children, from the age of seven years to 12-years-



old, on the beach, in the sea and in the swimming pool as trainee lifeguards.

A tremendous amount of hard work has been undertaken by these members and the coaches, especially trainers Dave Cooper and Karen O'Donoghue Harris, to gain the well deserved awards.

Rhooose Lifeguards have also taken delivery

of their new inflatable rescue boat. The club was able to purchase this boat thanks to a grant of £5,000 that was supported by the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services through the 'Kick Start III Grant Scheme'.

Thanks go to Mrs Sian Baron (fundraising officer) for all her hard work in securing grants and organising many fundraising events throughout the year.

The club has spaces available within the Nipper Section. It is especially looking for youngsters aged seven and eight.

Youngsters must be able to swim at least 50m (two lengths of the Fontygary Park or Barry Leisure Centre swimming pool).

If you are interested in

joining the Rhooose Lifesaving Club (Nipper Section), during the winter months (November-April) we meet every Friday at the Lifeguard Hut, Fontygary Beach between 6pm-8pm (this session includes a swim in the Fontygary Park swimming pool).

During the summer months (May-October) the club trains on Friday between 6pm-7.30pm on Barry Island beach at the eastern shelter.

On Sunday morning we meet 8am-9am in the Fontygary Park swimming pool all year round.

For further information, visit the club website www.rhooselife-guards.co.uk, or contact: chris@rhooselife-guards.co.uk

ELAINE EDGERTON

Concert 'to help eradicate polio'

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir will be performing at a charity concert on Saturday, February 27, at 7.30pm in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

The concert is being held on behalf of the Rotary Club of Llantwit Major as part of the club's efforts towards the eradication of polio worldwide.

In addition to the choir, there will be two young local musicians taking part, cellist Ben Tarlton from Llantwit Major and soprano Daisy Evans from Singstone.

Tickets cost £7.50 and are available in Llantwit Major from Cloggs Footwear and Gwyneth Morgan Optometrist, and in Cowbridge from Quills stationery shop.

TC

Haiti appeal rock concert

A GROUP of Vale musicians have pulled together to organise a benefit rock concert to raise money for the Haiti disaster appeal.

Local singer Aubrey Parsons, and guitarist Mark Pontin have arranged four of the area's top bands to perform for free at The Duke Of Wellington, Cowbridge, on Sunday, February 7, at 6pm.

Co-organiser Mark Pontin stated: "I was in Paris when I saw the news of the earthquake,

and the sheer devastation, coupled with the tranquil surroundings I was in made me think of ways to try and help, in any small way that I could.

"As soon as I returned home, I contacted Aubrey and we began to organise this event to raise money for the DEC appeal."

All the musicians and organisers have given their time for free, and Mark, landlord of The Duke, provides the medieval ballroom free of charge.

Appearing will be singer-songwriter Sophie Hansen, Swansea-based band Cocamama, Aubrey Parsons singing a solo set, blues-rock outfit MPG, and long standing Cowbridge band The Watchmen.

Admission charge is £10 per person and goes straight to the appeal. There is a strict 150 attendance limit for health and safety reasons, so the organisers advise an early arrival.

Win a free tour of Cosmeston!

'WHAT it means to be Welsh' is the theme for a special St David's Day competition organised by Cosmeston medieval village.

Schools and educational groups are being invited to ask their students to submit their thoughts, and entries can be in English or Welsh and as short as a small paragraph, but no more than 1,000 words.

Indeed, it all depends on how much room is needed to express a sense of Welshness!

Entries must be sent to Cosmeston medieval village by St David's Day, (March 1) and the winner will receive a free tour with activities for their class or group, and a season ticket giving free family entry to the village in 2010.

The competition is restricted to under 18-year-olds, and submissions must be sent to: Cosmeston medieval village, Lavernock Road, Penarth CF64 5UY.

Welsh Blood Service

THE forthcoming Welsh Blood Service sessions are:

Vale of Glamorgan: Old Pioneers Hall, Beryl Road, Barry, February 9 - 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-6pm; The Old School, South Road, Sully, February 11 - 10am-6pm; Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road, Llantwit Major, February 15 - 10am-6pm; February 16 - 10am-6pm.

Brackla Community Centre, 252266, or visit Triangle, Brackla, February 19 - 10am-6pm. If anyone misses a session, telephone 0800 252266, or visit www.welshbloodservice.org.uk

Win classic album cover stamps!

WHETHER it's the bent chromed pipe of Mike Oldfield's seminal 70s masterpiece, *Tubular Bells*; the astonishing statues of Pink Floyd's *Division Bell*, or the racing greyhounds of Blur's Britpop classic, *Parklife* – the images on Royal Mail's first set of stamps for 2010 will be instantly recognisable to millions around the world.

Readers of The Glamorgan GEM will be delighted with the presentation pack of ten of the Classic Album Cover stamps, which are on offer in our exciting new stamp competition.

To enter our competition all you have to do is answer the following question:

Blur's classic album is called what? A. *Parklife*; B. *Pondlife*; C. *Lowlife*?

Send your entries, marked 'Classic Cover stamp competition', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL, no later than Friday, February 12.

No correspondence will be entered into, and the judge's decision is final. Good luck!

Hearing Aid Exhibition

DO YOU NEED THE TV LOUDER?
DO YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW CONVERSATIONS?
DO YOU FIND PEOPLE MUMBLE?

If the answer is YES, there may be a simple solution.

Hearing Wales will be holding Hearing Exhibitions between 10am and 2pm at the following venues:

Tuesday, 9th February
Lesser Hall,
Town Hall, COWBRIDGE

Thursday, 11th February
Memorial Hall,
Gladstone Street, BARRY

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- Open lunchtime.

If you cannot attend but would like a free home visit, please call 01792 650894

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DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

FOUR PAGE SUPPLEMENT



Get set for switchover

With just weeks to go until the first analogue TV signals are switched off in Cardiff, Newport and south east Wales, The GEM has teamed up with Digital UK to provide readers with this special guide to the digital TV switchover.

What is switchover and when is it happening?

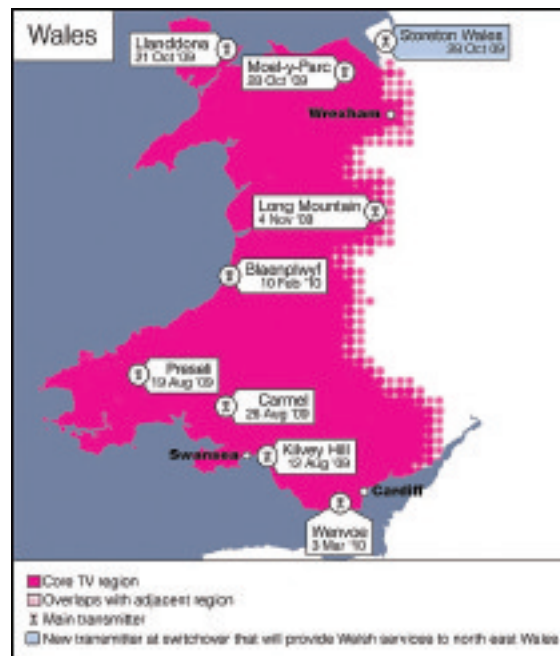
Digital TV switchover is the biggest change in television since the introduction of colour. Analogue signals will be switched off and replaced with new digital services. This will make Freeview available for the first time to thousands of homes watching local 'relay' transmitters in areas such as Pontypool, Rhondda and Ebbw Vale.

Switching off the analogue network will also allow digital signals to be boosted to full strength, improving reception for many viewers already watching Freeview, Top Up TV and BT Vision.

To continue receiving TV after switchover, analogue sets will need to be converted using a digital box or replaced with a new digital television. Switchover for the Wenvoe transmitter group, serving Cardiff, Newport and south east Wales, will happen in two stages on March 3 and March 31, 2010. Some readers may receive their TV signal from a different transmitter group which will switch on at a different date. You can check when you switch by using the postcode checker

on the Digital UK website at digitaluk.co.uk or by calling 08456 505050. A Welsh language helpline is available on 08458 48 48 48.

Digital UK, the independent organisation set up by the broadcasters, provides a helpline and website to help with general questions about getting digital TV and preparing for the switchover. Emyr Byron Hughes, Digital UK's National Manager for Wales, says: "Switchover will change forever how television is broadcast. I'm delighted that, very soon, viewers who have previously been unable to get Freeview services will be able to do so for the first time. Most people are well prepared; but for those who still have questions, we are here to help."



How will switchover happen?

Switchover will happen in two stages. If you currently receive your TV signal through an aerial, in either analogue or digital format (e.g. Freeview, Top Up TV, BT Vision), then you'll need to make a note of the information below. Televisions connected to a cable or satellite service are not affected.

Stage one - March 3, 2010:

In the early hours, analogue BBC Two will be switched off and replaced with a new digital signal. Local 'relay' TV transmitters will also start to broadcast the BBC's other digital channels for the first time.

Readers switching to digital for the first time via Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision will now be able to set up their equipment. Homes already watching these services should **retune their digital boxes or IDTVs**.

Also on this day, due to a change in broadcast frequencies, some viewers may find that ITV1 moves to button 2 on the remote control. All the analogue channels will be switched off permanently, however, at stage two.

Stage two - March 31, 2010:

All remaining analogue channels will be switched off and replaced with additional digital services. Everyone watching Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision will need to retune their equipment again to receive all available channels.

What time will services be switched on?

On both dates, these changes will happen overnight. For most viewers, services will be restored by the morning. Households receiving their TV signal from local relay transmitters will receive new digital services later in the day and should tune in for the first time or retune from this point.



Getting digital TV

Most households in Wales are already enjoying digital TV on at least one set in the home. If you're still only receiving five or fewer analogue channels through an aerial on any of your sets, you'll need to think about converting them for switchover. If you don't, you risk being faced with a blank screen once analogue signals are switched off.

There are three main ways to go digital:

- Convert your existing analogue TV using a digital box (e.g. Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision).
- Have a digital TV service, such as satellite, cable or broadband TV, installed for you. Providers include Sky, freesat, Virgin Media and Tiscali TV.
- Buy a new TV with digital (Freeview or freesat) built in.

Remember, almost everyone will be able to watch Freeview after switchover – even homes currently out of coverage. If you choose to get television this way you'll be able to receive BBC One, BBC Two, ITV1, S4C, Channel 4 and Five, plus a range of other channels and interactive services. The exact number of channels will depend on which transmitter supplies your signal. If you can't currently receive Freeview, you won't be able to tune in until the signal starts up in your area.

You can check the options for going digital in your area and the channels you'll be able to receive via an aerial using the postcode checker on the Digital UK website at digitaluk.co.uk. Extra channels are available through other digital TV services, such as satellite or cable.

Virtually any TV set, including black and white ones and those without Scart sockets, can be converted using a digital box. If you're buying new TV equipment, look for the 'digital tick' logo. This identifies products designed to continue working through the switchover.

Digital TV also provides on-screen TV listings, widescreen pictures and red-button interactive services. Viewers who are deaf or hard-of-hearing will be able to enjoy additional subtitled programming, while those who are blind or partially sighted can benefit from audio description services, providing a commentary on what's happening on screen.

Hotels, B&Bs, caravan parks and other areas of the tourism industry will also need to convert their televisions to digital. Advice for landlords and other property managers is available on the Digital UK website at digitaluk.co.uk/propertymanagers.

The Switchover Help Scheme...

THOUSANDS of people in Wales have already taken up help from the Switchover Help Scheme. Run by the BBC under an agreement with the Government, it's an official scheme which makes switchover easy for older and disabled people by giving practical help to switch one TV in their home. Now's the time to contact the Help Scheme if you're eligible and you want help in time for switchover.

People are eligible for the Help Scheme if they are:

- aged 75 years or over;
- eligible for attendance or constant attendance allowance, or mobility supplement, or disability living allowance;
- registered blind or partially sighted;
- or have been living in a care home for six months or more.

If you're eligible, you will be offered equipment that's easy to use, delivery or installation and a demonstration of how to use it, together with a choice of options. We will also check your aerial and upgrade it where we can, if it's needed. Importantly, there is a freephone number to call for help while you get used to things.

The Help Scheme has been specially designed with older and disabled people in mind and offers a high standard of service, such as fixed appointment times and installers trained to take extra care in your home.

Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard offer of help. For eligible people on income-related benefits, it's free. Eligible people can also choose from a range of other Help Scheme options, sometimes at a higher cost.

If you know an older or disabled person who might still need help to switch to digital TV, you could lend a helping hand and give them the message about the Switchover Help Scheme. Even if they have digital TV already, they can get help to switch another TV set in their home.



The Switchover Help Scheme helps 'those most in need to switch to digital television'.

All you need to do to get the help is respond to the information pack which has been sent to every eligible person's home. But you must respond to get the help. It won't be available forever. The Help Scheme will close for applications in Wales on 30 April 2010.

Face-to-face advice

Digital UK has been working closely with charities to organise local advice points on the day of – and the day after – switchover. These will be staffed by trained volunteers.

Anyone can visit a clinic, including people

who don't qualify for the Switchover Help Scheme.

There are also Digital UK roadshows in the region. To find out where your local advice or roadshow will be, visit digitaluk.co.uk/wales or call 08456 50 50 50.



Choosing your preferred services

TV signals in parts of Wales overlap with those from England, and this will continue to be the case after switchover. After a retune, if you are seeing English BBC or ITV services at the top of your channel list, you are likely to find Welsh services further down. You can make these easier to find by using the 'favourites' list option on your digital TV or box. See your instruction manual for more details. Alternatively, you can manually retune your equipment to pick up specific services from your local transmitter. Advice on retuning is available at digitaluk.co.uk/retuning and on 08456 505050. A Welsh language helpline is available on 08458 48 48 48.

What if I've already got digital TV?

Viewers already watching Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision will need to retune on both switchover dates in order to continue receiving all available channels. Cable and satellite services are not affected by switchover. You'll also need to think about converting any other sets in your home and consider any recording equipment.

If you're buying a box to convert your main TV, consider getting a digital TV recorder with a 'twin tuner'. As well as making your television ready for switchover, some models will let you record two digital channels at once. Ask your local electrical retailer about which kind of digital TV recorder is best for you.

digitaluk.co.uk

08456 50 50 50

get set for digital ☒



Know someone who needs a helping hand switching to digital TV?

The Switchover Help Scheme is here to help everyone aged 75 and over, or disabled people, by providing the equipment and practical support needed to switch one TV to digital.

If you know someone who is eligible, make sure they get the help they are entitled to. Tell them to call us free on 0800 40 85 900 or go to helpscheme.co.uk

 switchover help scheme

BBC The Help Scheme is run by the BBC



DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

FOUR PAGE SUPPLEMENT



YOUR GUIDE TO MAKING THE SWITCH TO DIGITAL TV AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE

How will switchover affect my recording equipment?

It's not just your TV which may be affected by switchover: recorders may need updating too.

When the switch to all-digital signals takes place, video and analogue DVD recorders will still play back and record, but you won't be able to record one channel while you watch another. If you want to continue doing this after switchover, the simplest way is to get a digital TV recorder.

There are three types of digital TV recorder: a recorder that records onto a hard drive; a recorder that records onto a DVD; a recorder that allows you to do both.

What are the main benefits of getting a hard drive digital TV recorder?

In addition to being able to watch one channel while recording another, upgrading to a digital TV recorder will give you the following benefits:

- Record at the touch of a button - no tapes or timers required.
- Pause and rewind live TV.
- Record a whole series at once.
- On-screen electronic programme guide.

What to buy?

You don't need to buy a new television for switchover. Virtually any TV - even black-and-white ones - can be converted with a digital box. If your set doesn't have a Scart socket, ask your retailer for a box with an "RF modulator".

But if you are buying any new TV equipment, always look for the 'digital tick' logo, which shows a product is designed to continue working after switchover.

If you're buying a box to convert your main TV, consider getting a digital TV recorder with a 'twin tuner'. As well as making your television ready for switchover, some models will let you record two digital channels at once. Ask your local electrical retailer about which kind of digital TV recorder is best for you.

What if I need work on my aerial?

Most rooftop aerials will be fine after switchover but a small proportion of aerials are likely to need replacing.

Some set-top aerials may also need to be replaced. You can check whether your existing aerial is likely to be suitable for receiving digital by visiting the aerial test page on text page 484.

If you do need a new aerial, you should expect to pay around £60-£180 for a standard installation. Remember, never let 'cold-callers' offering aerial services into your home. Neither Digital UK nor the Switchover Help Scheme will ever visit you without prior notice and proof of identity. Also, be aware there is no such thing as a 'digital aerial'. If you feel you have been a victim of unscrupulous traders or installers, call the Consumer Direct helpline on 0845 404 05 06 for free impartial advice on your rights.

Never attempt to adjust a rooftop aerial yourself. Look for a Registered Digital Installer (RDI) with the 'digital tick' logo. This means they have been trained and security checked. Go to rdi-lb.tv/installers.html or call Digital UK on 0845 650 50 50 for more information. If you can't find an RDI locally, look for someone with Associate RDI or CAI Plus status - or ask your local electrical retailer.

If you live in a flat and share your aerial with others then you may have a communal TV system. If so, it may need to be adapted to receive digital TV. Your landlord or managing agent should be aware of this and be making plans but you may want to check.

In certain areas, changes to the frequencies used to broadcast digital TV may mean viewers need to replace their aerials in order to receive all the available channels. In particular, a minority of homes receiving their signal from the Cwmfelinfach or Usk transmitters may need a new aerial in order to receive all the digital channels available.

Digital UK recommends that you wait until after switchover to see if your aerial needs replacing in order to avoid having unnecessary work carried out.

How to install a digital box

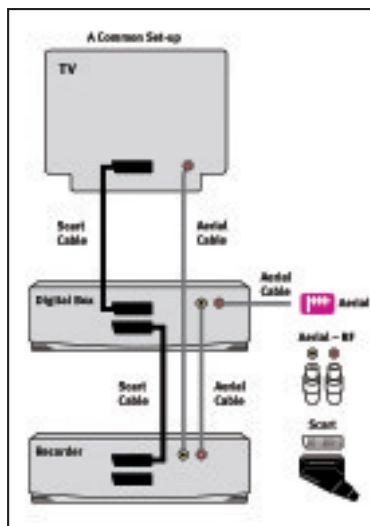
Switching to digital television is simple and needn't be expensive.

If you choose to get digital TV through an aerial - Freeview, Top Up TV, or BT Vision - it's reasonably straightforward to connect the digital box yourself. The illustration shows you how.

First, make sure your TV is unplugged from the electricity supply and don't switch the supply back on again until all the equipment is reconnected.

Once the TV is disconnected, plug in any Scart and aerial cables needed and then reconnect your equipment to the mains. Finally, turn on your TV and then your digital box. You may now be prompted by your box to scan for digital channels. If so, simply follow the on-screen instructions. If not, follow the instructions that came with your equipment to tune into digital channels.

You're now ready to enjoy digital TV.



How to retune your digital box or digital television

Viewers watching Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision will need to a full retune their equipment at both stages of switchover in order to continue receiving services. Retuning is also required from time to time to access new channels as they become available.

To do a full retune your Freeview, Top Up TV or BT Vision equipment, follow these steps (these instructions are a guide only - each product works slightly differently).

Switch on your digital box or digital television

Press 'menu' on the remote control

Select 'set up' or 'installation' option

Select 'first time installation' option (sometimes called 'factory reset', 'full

retune' or 'default settings')

Press "OK" if your equipment asks if you want to delete all your channels - don't worry this is normal.

Channels will be automatically installed. This may take a few minutes, and your equipment may shut down and restart.

The Digital UK website has a short video showing you how to retune, and specific retuning instructions for the most popular Freeview products. Go to www.digitaluk.co.uk/retuning

If you need help with retuning, find out you are missing some channels or your equipment has stopped working, visit digitaluk.co.uk/retuning for more information. If you can't fix this yourself, you may need to call out an installer. Make sure the installer you choose has been security checked and trained. Your instruction manual should give you full information on how to retune and set favourites. If you can't find your manual, please contact the manufacturer.

This feature is brought to you by The GEM in conjunction with Digital UK.

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Dear reader,

There are now just a few weeks to go until the Wenvoe transmitter group, serving Cardiff, Newport and south east Wales, starts its switch to digital on **3 March**.

For anyone who receives TV through an aerial and plans to switch using a Freeview TV or box* there are two important stages to remember:

3 March – Switchover stage one:

The switchover begins. Analogue BBC Two will be switched off permanently, and the higher powered BBC digital services will launch. All Freeview TVs and boxes will need to be installed or re-tuned at this point.

31 March – Switchover stage two:

On 31 March the remaining analogue channels will be switched off and the rest of the digital services launched. All Freeview TVs and boxes will need to be re-tuned again.

Switchover will make Freeview available to virtually every home in this area, including those that can't currently receive it, as it allows the digital signal to be strengthened and transmitted for the first time from the 75 local relay transmitters. This will mean that everyone can get around 15 channels, and will also provide additional services such as audio description for viewers with disabilities. Those who receive satellite and cable TV however, will not be affected by this change.

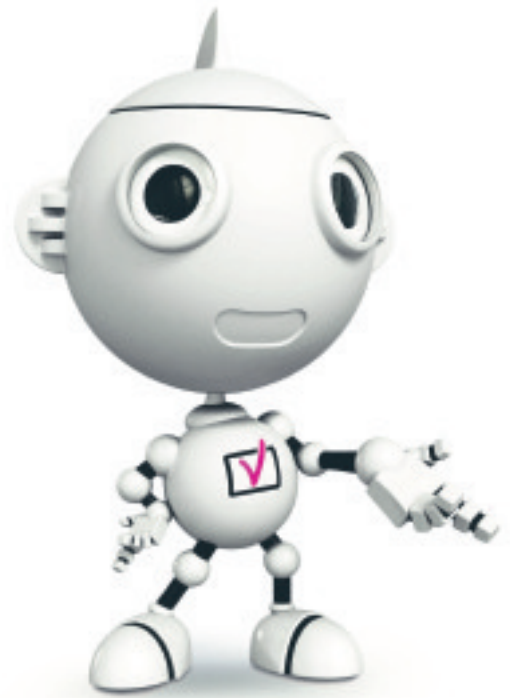
We're here to help. If you have questions call us on 08456 50 50 50 (English language) or 08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language) or go to digitaluk.co.uk for more information.

Thank you,



Emyr Hughes,
National Manager, Wales
Digital UK

**Call 08456 50 50 50 (English language),
08458 48 48 48 (Welsh language)
or visit digitaluk.co.uk**



get set for digital 

*Includes BT Vision or Top Up TV.
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Dull Mel Gibson thriller takes viewer to the 'Edge' of despair!

HAVING built up a career with the likes of *Mad Max*, the *Lethal Weapon* franchise and, of course, *Braveheart*, it seemed Mel Gibson's leading man life had ended with 2002's *Signs*.

Opting to stay behind the camera, Gibson directed the controversial yet financially-successful *The Passion of the Christ*, and *Apocalypto*, a film that was undermined by the bad publicity accrued when Gibson was arrested for drunk-driving, accused of anti-semitic behaviour and coining a phrase that for Dave Coaches in Gavin & Stacey is a term of endearment.

However, Gibson now returns to the front of the camera for *Casino Royale* director Martin Campbell in *Edge of Darkness*.

Based on a 1985 BBC miniseries (also directed by Campbell), it sees Gibson play Thomas Craven, a detective whose daughter (Bojana Novakovic) is gunned down in front of him.

Originally thinking that he was the target,

he soon learns that his daughter was an activist with links to a shadowy defence organisation.

As he finds himself further embroiled in what his daughter was doing, he is contacted by a shadowy man named Jedburgh (Ray Winstone), whose murky motives will either help or hinder Craven's investigation...

Dubious religious views aside, I'm sure I'm not the only one who has missed seeing Mel Gibson on screen these last eight years.

With performances that bristle with charisma coupled with a strong acting ethic and a varied CV, Gibson is certainly one of cinema's more notable performers.

That being said, it will take more than the limp *Edge of Darkness* to bring Gibson back to the level with which he was once accustomed, because despite the actor's best intentions, he can't quite get to grips with a film that is lacklustre in the extreme.

It doesn't help that Gibson is a touch rusty in front of the camera, offering a performance that is solid yet lacking any real spectacle.

It seems odd he does-

n't do more with the role, particularly as takes in elements of many of his previous characters - a splash of Riggs from *Lethal Weapon*, a drop of Tom Mullen from *Ransom*, a pinch of Porter from *Payback* - but whether it's a lack of faith in the material or just a case of nerves, his turn is hit and miss.

Excelling in the emotional scenes, Gibson captures the anger, confusion and sadness of the situation he finds himself in, bringing an old-school attitude to his detective, knowing that bending the rules can only help in finding who is responsible for killing his daughter.

When he has to get angry and violent, however, Gibson flounders in a sea of grimaces and gritted teeth, failing to convey the passion of his character's need to find his daughter's killer.

The performances around Gibson are similarly inconsistent, with Ray Winstone doing his best gritty Cockney but failing to have anything overly meaningful to do in a script that wastes his talents considerably.

The scenes he shares with Gibson rattle along nicely, but his character

SCREEN TALK



by **GARETH JAMIESON**

is never fully explained and seems too perfunctory to the plot, all the more surprising given that Winstone replaced Robert De Niro early on in the shoot.

Both Danny Huston, as the head of the shadowy organisation who know more about Craven's daughter than they let on, and the underrated Denis O'Hare are given short shrift, the importance of their characters in the overall scheme of things piling in relation to the amount of screentime they receive.

Given his knowledge of the story, Martin Campbell has a good go at bringing this big screen version to life, yet finds himself caught

in the trap of being unable to really live up to proceedings.

With its dark hues and constant rain, he creates a dark and shadowy world that is reflected in the storyline, but there is little invention in his direction, with the odd action set-piece feeling tired and seemingly thrown in to alleviate another scene of exposition.

Campbell is certainly a skilled director - after all he resuscitated the James Bond franchise not once, but twice - but he offers little that is fresh or exciting here.

It is a criticism that can be similarly levelled at screenwriters William Monahan (*The Departed*) and Andrew Bovell, who manage to make the film far too complicated and murky, giving characters such as those played by Huston, Huston and O'Hare little in the way of screentime or motivation.

They also fail to satisfactorily edit down the six-hour original's story into a two-hour film, with several pivotal scenes of Craven working his way up the food chain to his daughter's killers cut to the bare bones and failing to satisfy the needs of the

story.

Having not seen the original I can only assume that it fares much better than what is on show here; notable certainly for Mel Gibson's first big screen outing in eight years, there is little else it will be remembered for; *Edge of Darkness*? More like the edge of despair!

VERDICT - A poor film that feels underwhelming. *Edge of Darkness* only real positive is that it gets Mel Gibson back in front of the camera. While not at his best, his hit and miss performance is the only positive you can take out of a film that is lacking in nearly all areas. Poor.

Can you give Charlie a home?

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone 01656 725219)

THIS WEEK: Charlie is an English Springer spaniel who is almost six years old.



Cheerful Charlie.

A Trust spokeswoman says: "He's a complex dog who is sensitive and at times reactive in new situations and with strangers. He is also sensitive when being handled at first."

"However, once he gets to know and trust you, he's a lovely boy and very playful. He has mixed with other dogs but is undersocialised and struggles to make friends, so he will need further help with his socialising."

"The type of home Charlie needs is one with an experienced owner, and he is not suitable with children."

"His new owner will need to be calm, patient and consistent with his handling to allow him to build up trust with them."

"Charlie is a strong character but in the right home home, he'll make a fun and rewarding companion," the spokeswoman added.

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to : ggem@internet-today.co.uk

HISTORY SLIDE SHOW

THE Dinas Powys Local History Society will be holding its next meeting on February 9, to be held in the Kynance Church Hall, on the edge of Dinas Powys Common at 7.30pm.

Jonathan Berry will give the talk and show slides on 20th century military sites in south Wales.

All are welcome to attend. An administrative charge will be made at the door to cover running expenses.

For further information, please contact the programme secretary, Jan Gray, on 01446 701273.

LEGION MEETS

THE next meeting of the Royal British Legion (Barry Branch) will be on February 8 at 2.30pm in the Mayor's Parlour, Barry Memorial Hall.

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KENFIG HILL RUGBY ROUND-UP

Mules take over after first half deadlock

KENFIG HILL
Firsts took on Cwmavon who started strongly, belying their lower league table position.

However, the Mules' defence was too strong for them and after 18 minutes, Kenfig Hill broke the stranglehold and raced downfield, where Cwmavon conceded a penalty, which outside-half Nicky Giles kicked.

Kenfig centre Chris Tossell then picked up the ball on the Cwmavon 10-yard line and scored a dazzling try, breaking four tackles in the process.

Cwmavon came back with a penalty by outside-half Steve Browning, and Tossell blotted his copy book by getting yellow-carded. Browning scored from the subsequent penalty.

After this, the Mules were on top but the Cwmavon defence managed to keep them out. Half time score Kenfig Hill 8 Cwmavon 6.

Kenfig started the second half in the same attacking vein and Giles added another penalty. They were reduced to 14 men again, soon after, when back row forward Steve Gillard was yellow-carded.

Cwmavon then scored from a scrum close to the Kenfig Hill line when No 8 Cameron Davies forced his way over. He was then sent to the sin bin, but for some reason the referee



Nicky Giles sidesteps a tackle.

Pictures by PETER GILLING

did not award a penalty.

Minutes later, Giles did put over a long range penalty. There followed the move of the match when Kenfig Hill spun the ball on their own line and with some slick passing reached the Cwmavon line, only for the player who received the final pass to knock on.

Kenfig Hill then won a series of scrums close to the Cwmavon line and the ball found its way to right winger Ian Williams, who went over in the corner.

Kenfig dominated the rest of the game and only some desperate tackling kept the Mules out in their quest for a bonus point.

Man-of-the-match for Kenfig Hill was outside-half Nicky Giles. It was a pleasure to see Matthew Tossell come on as a second half substitute. Matthew has worked hard to regain fitness after breaking his leg in training last season. Brother Chris

Tossell had a good game at centre, and back row man Matthew Bate was the pick of the forwards.

Second team thriller

THIS was a thoroughly entertaining game of second team rugby played in excellent spirit, with the result in doubt right up to the final whistle.

Llanharan started strongly and went into an early 10-0 lead with a penalty and converted try. The Mules struck back when centre Jamie Meers ripped through the Llanharan defence, chipped ahead for winger Kyle Evans who hacked on for Meers to complete the score. The try was converted by full-back Scott Hancock.

Llanharan then extended their lead following a lapse in the Mules defence, which allowed Llanharan to kick and chase to score a converted try close to the posts. The game was being played at a high intensity which was being helped by a no-nonsense approach from the referee, who kept firm control on proceedings throughout the 80 minutes.

The Mules scored next following an intelligent box kick from scrum-half Tom Briggs that was gathered by veteran war horse Richard Underhill, who showed deft skills to off load to winger Rhys Stanton, who crossed

under the posts. The try was converted by Hancock.

Llanharan finished the half with another penalty to leave the score at half-time 20-14.

In the second half, Llanharan punished the Mules with three more well-taken penalties, but the Mules never gave up playing their attacking game and they scored further tries from the excellent Briggs and a 'one yard dash' from Underhill following a concerted forward drive.

Hancock converted one of the tries to leave the score with five minutes remaining 29-26.

Although the Mules camped themselves in the Llanharan 22, resolute defending and a couple of wrong options from the Mules meant there were no more scores.

Congratulations to both teams for putting on such an entertaining game of rugby. The Mules' coaches gave the man-of-the-match award to Jamie Meers, but all players deserve credit.

For Llanharan, there was a very impressive display of goal kicking from Wayne Jarvis whose personal contribution of 19 points was ultimately the difference between the two teams.

Final score: Llanharan 29, Kenfig Hill 26.

Kenfig Hill/Cornelly Youth v Morriston

THIS was an excellent win for the Youth by 25-0 against a lively Morriston side.

It would be unfair to pick out any of the players for special praise as they all performed well. Gareth Harvey scored a try, as did Keiron Tomlin.

Prop Jamie Uren celebrated his 18th birthday in fine style, storming down the touchline to score a try. Shaun Burnell put over two penalties and two conversions.

GO'S

Police shade a tough youth team encounter



South Wales Police Youth.

THE Police gained revenge for their only defeat to date earlier in the season in this return fixture of the Ospreys Youth League, when they welcomed unbeaten Maesteg Youth to Waterton Cross for what was to be a cracking contest, played as a 'double header' with the winner going into the next round of the cup, and securing valuable league points.

Maesteg exerted the early pressure with their far bigger pack taking the ball upfield and looking to get their backs away at every opportunity. However, the Police defence held solid while the entire back row of Aled Roberts, Mathew Jones and Will Thomas were awesome in defence and attack.

The Police started to put together some good phases of play and a break by second row Ashley Berrows saw the forwards recycle the ball to influential outside-half Craig Davies, who put in a chip to see winger Dan Harris outpace the defence to secure the first try.

Maesteg, to their credit, came straight back at the Police and the Police gave away far too many penalties. However, Maesteg only managed the one successful kick with several attempts unfortunately falling short, however there was more to come from the Police. Clean lineup call came from Josh Thomas and the forwards made a number

SOUTH WALES POLICE 15 MAESTEG 8

of drives towards the Maesteg line.

The ball was set up nicely for outside-half Davies to again put another well-timed chip over the defence. This time, centre Dan Nicholas got his hands on the ball just in front of captain Lee Roderick to secure the try. Davies added the two points to see the Police go in 12-3 up at the interval.

However, once again as in previous games, a lack of concentration saw a quick penalty taken by Maesteg to secure a try and put them back in the game.

The Police wings of Dan James and Dan Harris put in some brilliant defensive tackles while full-back Jack Evans put in a faultless performance dealing with high ball and turning defence into attack at every opportunity. The Police front row of Tom Treharne, Tommy Rees and Mathew Davies, playing only his second game at hooker, were outstanding, while scrum-half Callum Williamson again put in another gutsy performance, giving outside-half Davies first class service.

The Police reshuffled their pack with Russell Gurdin and Pat Roberts slotting in nicely. In the last minutes, ill-discipline by both teams saw the Police awarded a penalty that Davies slotted over, putting the Police seven points

ahead, securing the victory and putting the final touches to a top performance by the Police.

For The Police, the work rate of the team and tackle count was second to none.

Good away win at Penarth

PENARTH 5 - SOUTH WALES POLICE YOUTH 15

SOUTH Wales Police Youth visited Penarth, who had only lost once so far this season against Rhymney in the cup, and knew this would be a stern test.

The home side threw everything against the Police. However, the Police defence held with some brilliant work from Will Thomas, Mathew Jones and Ashley Berrows. The Police looked dangerous with ball in hand and broke the deadlock when influential full-back Craig Davies put in a well-timed kick for wing Dan James to hack on and dive over to beat the home defence to secure the first try.

The Police extended their lead with a well-taken penalty from Craig Davies. The half-back pairing of Callum Williamson and Howell Roberts supplied the centre partnership of

Lee Roderick and Dan Nicholas with some quick ball, and they both looked dangerous in attack and with ball in hand.

The home side pulled a try back with a quick tap penalty when a lapse of concentration in the Police defence caught them sleeping. Half-time 5-8.

The Police started the second half the stronger and attacked the Penarth try line at every opportunity. Penarth came back but fantastic tackling from Vernon Deladla and Jack Evans kept them at bay. The Police continued to force their way towards the Penarth line and a loose ball was collected by wing Jack Evans to go on a great solo run for the second try. Davies added the additional two points.

Penarth piled on the pressure and looked to have closed the gap when a loose pass was picked up and the wing made his way to the try line until Police captain Lee Roderick covered across field to put in a try-saving tackle.

The Police defended well for the last few minutes to come away with a very good win.

BS

Porthcawl in brief

PORTHCAWL Town Council is to have a contingency plan for the switching-on of the Christmas lights next December, following complaints that some people missed the ceremony because it was brought forward last Christmas.

Coun Mary Emment Lewis said there was a need for a Plan B if bad weather occurred because of the bad publicity the council incurred.

Coun Wendy Ingram said that it was brought forward by 20 minutes. Coun Rosemary Deere added that the lights were already on and the main event was the presentation of prizes for the poster competition.



Chris Tossell hands off a defender.



Prop Gavin Reffell on a charge.



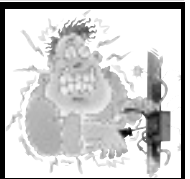
ABOVE: Lee Roderick and co-centre Dan Nicholas celebrate Dan's try, watched by prop Tommy Rees.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GARETH DAVIES



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Family Notices

PALFREY

Suddenly on January 5, at Llandough Hospital, Barrie William aged 63 years of Dyfnal Road, Barry. Beloved son of the late Iris and Ronald Palfrey. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral arrangements later, enquiries to A. G. Adams & Son, Barry. Tel: 01446 735400.

Birth Notices

Congratulations Natalie & Revs on the birth of your beautiful Baby Boy (31 January 2010)
All our love Mum & Dad (Bateman)

Congratulations Lewis & Delyth Collins on the birth of your son Iestyn Lewis 14.01.10
With lots of love always from Mum & Dad (Collins). xxxxxx

Birthdays

Happy 60th Birthday WYNNETTE ROBERTS

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Contact 01446 774484

FOUND

In Cowbridge on January 31, 2010.

Tame, black, long-haired cat with green eyes

Contact 07967 388264

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Taking the Taff Trail - in the virgin snow!

RECENTLY, Peter had to cancel his planned walk due to illness, and we hope he has now recovered.

At very short notice, Clive and Jeff stepped in to share a walk to take advantage of the better weather, starting at the Black Cock Inn.

Joined by Pam and Krys and Paul at the pub where Pam's multi-coloured socks (following gifts received at Christmas) were shown off and greatly admired, the small group set off on what turned out to be a very pleasant six-mile walk in surprisingly good weather.

They made their way through Fforest Fawr (great forest) a lovely wood containing broad-leaved trees which is classed as a Site of Special Interest, and surrounds the fairy-tale Castell Coch, perched above the Taff gorge.

They dropped down to join the Taff Trail, opened in 1988 as a walking and cycling route that follows much of the old Taff Vale railway line and the disused Rhonda Valley down to

Both were built during the 18th and 19th centuries to transport coal and iron ore from Merthyr Tydfil and the

Someone, somewhere,



the docks at Cardiff and Barry.

Stopping at a vantage point along the trail for an early lunch, they had good views of Garth Hill and away to the north, towards the central Brecon Beacons.

Further along the trail it was time to leave the flat track and do some climbing as they approached the base of Craig yr Allt.

They climbed gradually to the top of the hill which stands at 273-metres (896-feet) and at the top had brilliant views towards Caerphilly in the east, and nestling below them to the west, Nantgarw and Taffs Well.

The Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk passes across the top of the hill and, as they walked on, those at the front were

treading in virgin snow, which is always a thrill, walking where no one else has trodden!

Someone, somewhere,

was experiencing rain because the group had a great view of an arched rainbow high in the sky, before they moved on, gazing down on Caerphilly Castle, until it was time to descend into the valley.

All that was left was to make their way back to the Black Cock, where they took advantage of the hospitality on offer and enjoyed hot drinks before the journey home.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Tim's a 'crackerjackpot' Ty Hafan lottery winner

A DELIGHTED Mr Tim Howells from Bridgend became the first person to win the rollover prize in Ty Hafan's Crackerjackpot lottery, scooping a magnificent £5,000!

The family hospice for young lives, which operates the largest hospice lottery in the UK, has refreshed its prize structure this year by re-arranging the weekly prize pool of £3,000 to provide an opportunity for a bigger prize and for more winners.

The first prize of £2,000 remains the same, but a new rollover prize has been developed which starts at £500 and grows by that amount each week, to a maximum of £12,000 - or



Left to right: Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot manager David Griffiths with Mr Tim Howells.

until the lucky winning number comes up. Crackerjackpot provides a reliable and consistent source of income to the hospice, ensuring that Ty Hafan can continue offering, free of charge, its vital services

to life-limited children, young people and their families from across the Wales.

For more information on how you can join visit www.crackerjackpot.co.uk or call 029 2067 2062.

Feedback sought on the Vale's tourism strategy

RESIDENTS are being invited to help shape the vision of tourism in the Vale by giving their feedback to a new tourism strategy for the area.

Produced by the Vale Council, the 'Draft Tourism Strategy 2010-2015' outlines key objectives for the next five years, and comments are being sought as part of a consultation exercise, which runs until February 26.

The Vale Council's cabinet member

for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest, said: "The council has a strong commitment to tourism and recognises its very considerable importance to the local economy.

"This document identifies the council's aims for developing tourism further in the Vale and I invite local business people and residents to read the strategy and give their feedback."

You can view the draft strategy online at www.visitthevale.com

COWBRIDGE JUNIOR AND MINI RUGBY ROUND-UP

Three out of three in the Blues Cup!

Under-9s AFTER a 10-week break of no rugby due to the weather, Cowbridge under- 9s came up against a well organised and physical Pentyrch side.

Cowbridge started very strongly but could not break down the defence of their opponents and it looked as if it was going to be a very tight battle.

As the game went on, Cowbridge forwards Iestyn Fenn, Ben Jones and Lewis Hawke started to make ground and it was only a matter of time before Cowbridge would cross the try line. This came through several phases of play by the forwards and went through every set of hands in the backs for Ben Batten to finish the move superbly.

As half-time approached, due to the increased pressure the boys were putting on their opponents, a mistake by the visitors allowed man-of-the-match Ben Jones to go crashing over to leave the half-time score two tries to nil.

In the second half, Pentyrch got straight back into the game with

a fine try of their own to put pressure back on their hosts, but from the kick-off, Cowbridge flying centre Barny ran from his own half for a fantastic solo effort to put the home side 3-1 up.

With a great platform being set by the forwards, this gave the boys in the backs some room to move the ball, with Jack Dixon going on a snaking run to score a well deserved try.

As the game entered the final few minutes, a run by Ben Jones saw the wing forward running three-quarters of the length of the pitch, breaking through at least half a dozen tackles to go over in the corner for the team's fifth try.

Just as the game came to a close, a further try by Barny put the home side into a commanding 6-1 lead. The scoreline did not deter the visitors, as they kept playing great rugby until the final whistle and were rewarded with a fine try, to leave the final score six tries to two to the ever-improving Cowbridge side.

**Under-10s
AFTER nine weeks
of frustration, the
under-10s were
finally able to line**

up for a difficult Blues Cup encounter with local rivals, Pontyclun.

Cowbridge kicked off and from a superb restart, Bevan Howells gathered the ball and stormed towards the opposition line. Fine tackling from the Pontyclun boys held Cowbridge at bay, but the tone was set for the rest of the game.

The forwards were quicker to the breakdown than their bigger opposite numbers and were able to provide a stream of good, quality ball for the half backs.

The ball was shifted at pace to both flanks, and Rhidian Williams opened the scoring with a trademark mazy run in to the corner.

From the restart, Pontyclun attempted to make use of their bigger forward pack. However, the Cowbridge boys' defence was superb and they repeatedly halted the opposition and proceeded to turn ball over.

Bevan Howells added the next score following superb work in the loose. Shortly before half-time, the forwards once again recycled quality ball and Ioan Lewis fed Rhidian Williams to increase the lead.

The second half started with Pontyclun showing incredible bravery as they tackled everything that was thrown at them. Eventually the pressure told and Rhidian Williams secured his hat-trick.

Pontyclun then enjoyed their best spell of possession but Sam Corkill, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, Max Lucas and Max Cunningham were superb up front and managed to slow any quality ball the opposition had.

The Cowbridge backs were clinical and opened up another opportunity for Evan Williams to add the fifth try of the match.

As the final whistle drew near, Luke Beattie picked up a loose ball on halfway. The robust winger then beat three defenders to score the final try of the day, and

secure a superb victory for Cowbridge.

**Final score:
Cowbridge 30
Pontyclun 0**

Full squad: Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Dan Taylor, Dylan Lloyd-Doyle, Ellis Bird, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Josh Lloyd-Doyle, Liam Murphy, Luke Beattie, Max Cunningham, Max Lucas, Oliver Reynolds, Rhidian Williams, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill, Tom Jose.

Under-10s at Bridgend THE boys made their way to Newbridge Fields for a local derby with old rivals Bridgend Athletic.

Due to the overnight frost, the kick-off was delayed by an hour to give the ground extra time to thaw out. Despite this, the surface was very firm as Rhidian Williams kicked off.

The early encounters all took place in the Athletic half as Cowbridge applied the early pressure. The physicality shown by both teams at the contact area was ferocious, but Cowbridge were enjoying the majority of possession.

The Cowbridge forwards then put together a sensational passage of play that took them deep into the opposition territory and Luke Beattie powered past the cover defence to open the scoring.

From the restart, Bridgend enjoyed their best passage of possession and scored the leveller with an excellent try in the corner.

Cowbridge then upped their game and were once again dominating possession and territory. After more superb work up front, Cameron Roy and Dan Marshall drove in to the Bridgend half.

Sam Corkill picked and drove to get over the gain line before Evan Williams released Rhidian Williams, who outstripped the Bridgend defence to regain the lead for Cowbridge.

Half-time: Bridgend Athletic 5 Cowbridge 10.

Bridgend kicked off the second half and regained possession following good work from their forwards. They then launched a series of attacks but were thwarted by magnificent defence, with Bevan Howells, Jac Roberts and Rhidian Williams outstanding.

Cowbridge forced the play back to halfway but from a good turn over, Bridgend ran in a superb try from the halfway.

The coaches now looked for a good response from the boys as they sought to regain the lead for the third time in the match. They would not be disappointed as Cowbridge forced the Athletic back over their own in goal area thanks to some superb blitz defence.

Athletic had no option but to concede a five-metre scrum. Cowbridge ran a blindside move with the impressive Bevan Howells dragging in three defenders to hold him up short of the line. However, the ball was presented perfectly for the ever-present Jac Roberts to burst over the line for the winning try.

**Final score:
Bridgend Athletic 10
Cowbridge 15.**

Both sides then agreed to play another 15 minutes to enable all the boys to take the field. This would prove to be a slightly one side affair as the Bridgend team fielded the majority of the 'Athletic Yellow'. Despite this it proved to be no less committed than the first game, with every player from both side giving their all.

Cowbridge took an early lead with two tries from Rhidian Williams before the Athletic hit back with an excellent score of their own. Cowbridge extended the lead with scores from Evan Williams and Max Lucas to give a half-time score of Bridgend Athletic 5 Cowbridge 20.

The second half continued in a similar vein to the first with Cowbridge a little quicker and more aggressive at the break down. This was giving the impressive Cowbridge backs the space and time to show their skills and Rhys Davies added the next with a try engineered from his own half.

While Cowbridge continued to dominate, the Bridgend boys' heads never went down and they battled on gamely throughout the half. Luke Beattie added to the score with the finishing touch to a good move before Max Cunningham, Bevan Howells and finally Evan Williams completed the scoring.

**Full time: Bridgend
Athletic 5 Cowbridge
45.**

The coaches were extremely pleased with

the performance from the boys today and the Bridgend Athletic coaches and parents, were extremely complimentary of the style and commitment of the Cowbridge players. Many thanks to all at Bridgend Athletic for their extremely warm welcome as always. Thanks to all the parents and relatives for your continued support.

Full squad: Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Dan Marshall, Evan Williams, Jac Roberts, James Guard, Luke Beattie, Max Cunningham, Max Lucas, Rhidian Williams, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill.

Under-11s take on Barry in Blues Cup COWBRIDGE progressed to the quarter finals of the Blues Cup with comprehensive win at Barry.

The visitors were quickly off the mark with a well-taken try by Cai Evans. Then a quick throw-in at a line-out saw Duncan Ace score, followed by an excellent offload from Dan Bunney, which resulted in Rhys Barnard scoring Cowbridge's third try.

Slick handling among the backs led to a try by Toff Patel. Brave tackling by Osian John and James Holder prevented a brief rally from the home side before two further tries from Cai Evans and Toff Patel gave Cowbridge a 42-0 lead at half-time.

Six changes were made to the Cowbridge team for the second half, and within a minute a great offload from Mikey Thomas resulted in a Charlie Pegrum try.

Matthew Keating and James Walters worked tirelessly to establish a platform for the next try, scored by Cai Evans.

Duncan Ace then scored three tries within five minutes to take his tally to four. All the tries were converted by Cai Evans as Cowbridge completed one of their best displays of the season.

Under-12s in Blues Cup too! COWBRIDGE under-12s hosted Merthyr for a fiercely contested match with both sides determined to progress in the Blues Cup.

Merthyr started strongly and used their sizeable pack to good advantage to keep Cowbridge pinned in their own 25 metre area for the first 12 minutes.

However, the Cowbridge boys would not give an inch, and from a breakdown the ball was stolen in the pack and shipped along the line to Tom Trotman, whose mazy powerful run from the half way line resulted in a try – the conversion was missed for a 5-0 lead.

The Cowbridge team were now in full stride and the remainder of the first half was played in Merthyr territory with great pressure being put on the try line.

The Cowbridge back row of Luke John, Ben Jones and Josh Brace had been flying at the Merthyr backs all game and their speed and workrate paid off when Ben charged down a kick, collected the rebound and scored another try on 18 minutes, which again went unconverted.

ML

Llantwit A score first win of season

LLANTWIT A stole a march in the early minutes of this match with a dominating presence on the court.

They went three goals up and it was nearly four minutes before Pen y Bont Dragons had a chance to go for goal.

The second quarter started very scrappily with both sides guilty of fumbling and stumbling, tripping and slipping with the ball.

Llantwit were again quicker to get back into the running and they pushed on to a nine-goal lead at the end of half-time.

Competition was immediately resumed in the third quarter with every ball hotly contested.

ed. Llantwit did, however, lose momentum which resulted in The Dragons increasing their score to within three goals of Llantwit.

Both teams took to the court for the final quarter with the clear intention of winning.

Llantwit once more showed their composure scoring directly off their first two turnovers, to score the first three goals unanswered. The ball seemed to flow effortlessly down court for Llantwit, with both Anna Griffin and Lizzie Thomas finding their shooting range.

The game finished with Llantwit convincingly winning 39-30, recording their first victory this year.

BETHAN EVANS

LLANTWIT MAJOR JUNIOR FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Under-12s triumph in semi-final

AFTER a long lay-off with the winter weather, the go ahead was given last Friday – matches are on!

However, the heavy frost on Friday night soon put paid to the majority of matches, with only a few beating the freeze.

Llantwit under-12s Cup semi-final against Cowbridge Town was on at Barry Sports Centre and the unbeaten Llantwit team lived up to their 'hot favourites' tag

by GWYN JOHN

in beating their neighbours 4-0.

Kirstian Jones (2), Ashford Thomas and Andrew Allison scored in a comfortable win.

They now meet the winners of Cadoxton Imps and Porthkerry Panthers, whose semi-final tie was called off on Saturday.

Both Llantwit under-14 teams were fixtured together with the A side coming out on top with a 6-1 win. James Wear scored for the B side.

Llantwit under-15s visited Sully Sports A and lost 3-1. Llantwit had the chances to have won convincingly and hit the upright and crossbar four times.

However, all they could muster was a goal from Rob Sawyer.

In the mini football, Cole Baker scored for the under-10 Lions in their home match against Cowbridge.

The under-10 Dragons were in good form against Sully Serpents in

a high-scoring match.

Moses Gee, Luke Beattie, Joe Baker, and an own goal, accounted for Llantwit's goals with Bevan Howell on top form for the Major.

Daniel Clark was on top form for the under-10 Tigers and scored against Barry Eagles. Parker Garman had a good match for Llantwit in a tough encounter.

Toff Patel and Matthew Reynolds found the net for the under-11 Lions against Cogan Celts in a very exciting game.

It's five in a row for The Snail!

THE SNAIL, a seven-year-old bay gelding, trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, notched up his fifth consecutive win when landing the three-mile Cosmic Case Handicap Hurdle at Musselburgh last Wednesday.

Ridden by stable jockey Irishman Paul Moloney, *The Snail*, who went off the 3-1 favourite, took up the running in the closing stages of the race to score by four lengths from *Sonara* to whom he was conceding 15lbs.

On Friday, Williams landed a 41-1 double when his four-year bay gelding *Extreme Impact*, the youngest horse in the race, landed a novice hurdle at Chepstow under Paul Moloney; then hours later in the evening at Wolverhampton, his six-

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

year-old bay gelding *Sheshali*, carrying a hefty 10st, got home by a head from the favourite *Calculating* who was finishing runner-up for the third time in a row this season.

● A number of horses from the Vale will be travelling to Erw Lon, Pencader, on Saturday, weather permitting, for the Vale of Clwtwr Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases. Racing gets under way at 11.30am with the members' and subscribers race.

● On April 4, 1953, the Pentyrch Hunt held their annual point-to-point steeplechases at St Fagans. The stewards were JC Clay, the famous cricketer, HCR Homfray, Cyril R Morgan, and J Roy Paton. My marked card informs me that Mr GH Jones's *No Probation* won the members' race, NN Johns-Powell's

Clanyon won the adjacent race, and Mrs BEA Jones's *Spurn Head* the open steeplechase.

But Mr MJ Clay, who kindly gave me the racecard, together with a number of others, didn't mark up which one of the three runners – *Cottello*, *Sally On*, *Sylvester II* – in the adjacent hunts' ladies' race, emerged successful.

There were 12 runners in the maiden race that day and I remember the winner as I had five shillings on it. It was a chestnut horse called *Wood Martin*, owned by Trevor Jenks, and it was ridden by the legendary Castleton farmer Bill Jones, who will always be associated with the prolific *Spurn Head*.

You can email your views/news to Brian Lee at leebrlan@btinternet.com or phone him on 029 2073 6438.

GOOD RUGBY ON SHOW AT LOCAL UNDER-9s DERBY

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC under-9s welcomed Cowbridge and, after a pitch inspection at 8.30am, it was deemed to delay the kick off time to 12pm, giving the field time to thaw.

Once again, Ath had a near full complement of players and were able to field two different sides. Cowbridge had approximately 15 players.

This week it was the Yellow side that kicked off first and they were off to a good start with some breaking runs and tackling well. They were up against a well-mixed Cowbridge side, consisting of talented players who were proving a tad too strong for the

Yellows, so much so they led at half-time 1-5, with the only Ath try coming from Sam Veasey, after a darting run.

All credit must go to the Ath players, who played some nice rugby, in this half.

The second half was to be no different, with Cowbridge scoring two more tries, before the Ath scored their next, with Kasari Mehta racing in to score.

Then, once again, Cowbridge scored two more but the Yellows battled on and, from a strong run, Charles



Action from the derby encounter between Bridgend Athletic and Cowbridge under-9s.

Creffield scored Ath's third. Still putting the squeeze on, Cowbridge scored the last try of the game and their 10th.

Final score: 3-10 to Cowbridge.

Team: Taine Waite, Brandyn Fooks, Louis King, Jade Thomas, Charles Creffield, Christopher Hart, Kasari Mehta, Megan Webb, Sam Veasey and William Goodall.

Player of the match went to Christopher Hart, for good play in the first half, with some good tackles going in.

Revenge for Greens

In the second encounter, Ath Greens took on Cowbridge's best, with approximate-

ly five players who took part in the previous match.

The Ath started with confidence, with the forwards playing extremely well as a unit, thus making the Cowbridge players a little shell-shocked and not really knowing what had hit them.

Ruck after ruck the Ath players battled their way forward, putting in some fierce hits and pounding their opposition. Cowbridge could not get their hands on the ball and the Ath notched up four tries in this half, with Daniel O'Sullivan touching down for two and Thomas Anthony and Teo Fillis, scoring one apiece.

In the second half, the Ath seemed to ease off slightly and Cowbridge sensed this and started to come into the game a lot more. They nearly managed to break away to score on a few occasions, but for some fine defensive tackling by the greens.

This woke up the Ath and, realising that Cowbridge were having too many chances, The Ath struck again, with a try from Connor Fabian.

Team: Gwilym John, Jack Obbard, Ffion Revell, Thomas Anthony, Teo Fillis, Dafydd Beach, James Hermolle, Connor Fabian, Daniel O'Sullivan and Jamie Marshall. Replacement: Josh Tidy.

Player of the match went to Daniel O'Sullivan, who had great all round powerful game.

There were compliments from the opposition coaches, saying what a well drilled squad we have. Statements like that really make the coaches really proud of the effort all the players put in week in week out.

PO

New under-18 team shows a 'great commitment'

PORThCAWL Athletic under-18 club for young people Wales is a new team this season brought together as a result of summer afternoon football at Locks Lane in the town.

Newly-appointed coach, Chris Aggett, had recently left the Army and put into good use his professional skills to coach the group.

The boys joined the already established Porthcawl Athletic, a sponsor was found, Kingsbridge Hygiene, to help finance the team's new strip and the boys are now up and running.

Consisting of mainly 16-year-old boys in an under-18s league, it became apparent that there was a huge disparity in size, strength and skill compared with the more established teams.



Porthcawl Athletic under-18s.

As matches and training sessions have passed, the team has developed a great passing game and they are improving each week.

Starting the season with losses of up to double figures, hard work has seen those losses dramatically reduce.

They still seek that elusive first win - which will come - and next season should prove to be a much better one for the boys.

CA

The Mini Ath 'marvels' show off their rugby skills

Under-7s
ON January 24, we travelled the short distance to Kenfig Hill, where two well matched games were played.

The under-7s started off the proceedings with a fantastic game of rugby. The first half was played at a very fast pace with both sides looking to score on every occasion.

Kenfig Hill took an early two try lead, but the Ath boys hit back with their first try through Jordan Gittins, who scored his first of the day.

Kenfig Hill scored again, but not to be outdone, Ieuan Pippin crossed the try line for his first of the day. A good set of six tries by the Ath gave them a turn over and from the tap Jordan Gittins raced over to even up the scores.

Kenfig Hill scored again and the Athletic came straight back, with Ieuan Pippin getting his second. Five more tries

were scored in the first half three for Kenfig Hill and two for the Ath coming from Fynn Mordecai and Jordan Gittins.

The second half saw the Ath make five changes, but it didn't disrupt the side at all. The Ath scored three early tries through Jordan Gittins who got two, and Thomas Lewis who got his first of the day.

Kenfig Hill got another try before Thomas Lewis got his second of the game, and put the Ath two tries ahead. Kenfig Hill battled hard and scored a good try with only a minute to play.

The last play of the game saw Kenfig Hill race down the line and score a good try, to even up the scores.

Result: Athletic under-7s 10, Kenfig Hill under-7s 10.

Player of the Match went to Callum Taylor.

Under-8s
The older boys took to the field straight after the sevens and it was another 14-try thriller.

Both sides attacked from the start with Kenfig Hill scoring first, followed by Dewi Harding for the Ath.

Kenfig Hill got their second half way through the first half but that was to be cancelled out with a good try from Bobby Bromley.

The Ath turned up the pace in the last couple of minutes of the first half and scored two really good tries through Morgan Bennett and Jack Pitts who scored his 50th try for the club.

The second half was a very even contest, with both sides playing a game of ping pong.

First the Ath scored with Oliver Raynor getting his first of the day, and then Kenfig scored.

Dewi Harding scored his second with a short

dash to the line and Kenfig Hill came straight to score again.

Morgan Bennett raced from the middle of the field to score a good solo try.

The two teams worked extremely hard and Kenfig Hill got the reward with two late tries to really make the final minutes interesting. The final play of the game saw the Ath go deep into Kenfig territory and after a couple of good passes, Oliver Raynor squeezed over in the corner.

Result: Athletic under-8s 8, Kenfig Hill under-8s 6.

Player of the Match went to Dafydd Hitchings.

ANDREW BENNETT

On your marks for the great Pancake race!

ON Sunday, February 21 at 12.15pm, Porthcawl Town Council is again organising a pancake race.

"The aim of the pancake race is to generate a festive atmosphere in Porthcawl for what is hoped will become an annual event. All proceeds raised will go to the Porthcawl Civic Fund which raises funds in support of the Mayor's chosen local charities," a council spokesperson said.

"All you need is a team of four people, suitably dressed up (or down) to enter in the relay race. Bring your own frying pan and we will provide the pancakes. The race will be run along Newton Green and all you have to do is toss the pancake five times en route."

Further information from Mrs S Watkins (administrative assistant), Porthcawl Town Council, 24 Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl, CR36 3HG.

Mermaids need volunteers!

PORThCAWL Athletic Netball Club is looking for motivated and committed people to help support the head coach.

The club is aimed at seven to 12-year-old girls who train every Monday evening, under-11s, 5pm-6.30pm and under-12s, 6.30pm-8pm.

Experience in coaching is not essential as the club would be able to put volunteers through a first coaching badge and first aid course. Prior to anyone joining the club, volunteers will be required to have a CRB check.

If interested, contact head coach Danielle Uiberini on 01656 772918/07811040590 or danielleulberini@sky.com

Read your GEM online: bridgend-today.co.uk or porthcawl-today.co.uk

Pencoed rue their missed chances

PENCOED Youth welcomed Sully Sports Youth and the home side swept upfield in the opening minute, crossing in the corner, only for the score to be ruled out.

Pencoed were having the better of the opening exchanges, and a strong burst from centre Shane Napper took him into the Sully 22, where unfortunately his team mates transgressed at the ruck with the try line beckoning.

Shortly after, Napper again split the defence with a slanting run, but

with co-centre Jamie Williams in support, the pass failed to go to hand.

Pencoed continued to breach the defence on a number of occasions, but accuracy in their passing was letting them down. The interval arrived with Pencoed having dominated the half in territory, but with nothing to show for their efforts.

At the start of the second half, the visitors scored from nothing against the run of play, their centre scoring a smart try, picking up a loose ball, and accelerating off a side step to score wide out.

Pencoed continued to dominate territorially,

and had their reward with a well-worked try in the corner from Christopher John.

The home side were to squander chance after chance, and will reflect on a match they should have won comfortably, and will need to address their inability to handle accurately in offensive pressure situations.

For Pencoed, Matthew Benson, Lewys Jenkins, and Ricky Evans did well.

Congratulations go to skipper David Potts on his selection for the Boys Clubs of Wales, who tour to Belgium in April.

TR

Leaders keep up the pressure



Croissants - a 3-2 win.

B ATTACK are spearheading the Bridgend Six-a-side Premier Division as they look like strong favourites to go all the way, following a comfortable 4-0 victory over AFC Just One More Pie.

Croissants are doing all they can to keep the leaders honest as they battled to a James King inspired 3-2 defeat of Day Sleepers.

Adam Woodward was influential for Team G, as they came out on top, 2-0 in a close fought encounter against Persil Boys.

Boca Brackla Juniors preserved their 100 per cent record in the First Division as they swept past the challenge of Athletic Brackla, 3-0, to move into top spot.

If anyone is interested in joining the Bridgend Six-a-side Leisure League, telephone 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

PORThCAWL NEWS IN BRIEF

THE Porthcawl Sea Festival is to be held on the weekend of August 13 to 15 and will have a budget of £1,000.

A LETTER of complaint from a Cardiff resident who previously lived in Porthcawl, about litter, is being passed to BCBC by the town council.

The complaint concerned litter on the beaches and by the subway. She said that the council should look at what happens in Devon and Cornwall. She also complained about the tarmacing of the beach which had destroyed it.



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* Road prices only. Subject to availability at participating Mazda dealers for new vehicles (excludes used and registered vehicles between 1 January 2009 and 31 March 2009). Offer finance available on Mazda3 Tamura with maximum 50% deposit required. A lower deposit will increase the amount of the payments. Offer not available in conjunction with Government Scrappage Scheme. Finance subject to status and terms of agreement. Written quotations are available on request. All illustrated deals are non part exchange. * These finance offers are only available on FRF finance. 1 Amount of fuel given free this weekend is £20 total with each offer. Exchange vehicles must have a MOT certificate valid for a minimum of three months. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

Who wants to build what and where?

Miss Jill James - **West Farm, Southerndown** - change of use of existing barn property from tea shop restaurant to mixed use of tea shop restaurant, cinema plays, meeting facilities, exhibitions and holiday accommodation letting.

Mr Phillippe De Wilde - **Tumblers Chase, St Hilary, Cowbridge** - external alterations comprising demolition, construction of new store entrance portico and orangery on rear elevation.

Mr C Gunn - **1 Cedar Way, Penarth** - new attached house. Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust - **Llandough Hospital, Penlan Road, Penarth** - temporary car park for the duration of the construction of the MHSOP Project. The car park provides parking for the building contractors' operatives and compensates for the loss of staff car parking spaces which have been overlaid by the temporary diversion of the hospital service road.

Staff car parking spaces will be reinstated upon completion of the development. Redrow Homes - **land at St Johns Well, St Athan** - development at St Johns Well for up to 100 dwellings, public open space and associated access.

Mr Ian Hunt - **The Old Coal Yard, Le Poulguen Way, Llantwit Major** - extension of the approved

access road to houses 1 to 14 of application 2007/00107/FUL, also removal of parking spaces marked V, 6, 7 and 8 and related landscape items.

Mr Ian Hunt - **41 and 43 Boverton Road, Llantwit Major** - erection of eight three-bedroom semi-detached houses and parking, after demolition of existing properties on the site. Mr Lesley John - **Cottages 1, 2 and 3 Highfield Close, Park Road, Barry** - extensions and internal refurbishment to three cottages (existing) at north boundary of Highfield Close, Park Road, Barry. Cottages 1, 2 and 3 two-storey pitched roof, extensions to be flat roofed.

Mrs C Fenton - **Kenson Cottage, Barren Hill, Penmark** - fell cherry tree.

Mr Martin Dodwell - **Flackwell Cottage, Tredodridge, Cowbridge** - change of use to residential curtilage and erection of boundary wall.

Mr and Mrs J Canning - **79 Castle Drive, Dinas Powys** - single storey side and rear extension. Mrs Lynda Hale - **3 Winsford Road, Sully** - change of use of property annexe only, from residential use to business - provision of complementary therapies, primarily for adults with learning difficulties.

Mr CW Edwards - **land**

at **Pwllwyrch Farm, Colwinston** - to remove derelict earth banks that are within a larger field enclosure.

Mr Nick Wall - **plot adjacent 34 Smithies Avenue, Sully** - renew planning application 2004/00943/FUL for a two-storey dwelling house, parking and access.

Mr Andrew Baker - **6 Rogersmoor Close, Penarth** - replace existing velux windows with new dormer windows. Widened and increased height of the gable frontage to the house, and introduce new bedroom at first floor level and a home office at ground floor level.

Mr David Burgess - **Mansfield, 24 Archer Road, Penarth** - proposed addition of two roof lights.

Dr Emma Scott Coombes - **Great House, Llyswoerney** - strengthen existing timber beam supporting the bedroom floor over the dining room and replace the ceiling in the dining room following accidental removal.

Mr Malcolm Drysdale - **St Athan Recreation Ground, off Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan** - provision of floodlighting in association with an upgrade to an existing skatepark facility.

Mr and Mrs Clemo - **30 Tathen Crescent, St Athan** - proposed removal of existing porch, installation of new

porch and conservatory, new window to lounge. Mr Barrie James - **The Croft, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys** - landscaping and retaining works.

Mr and Mrs Michael Haberfield - **plot adjacent to 75 Fontygary Road, Rhose** - proposed new dwelling.

Openreach - **opposite 19 Plymouth Road, Barry** - erect a new above ground joining chamber. New green coloured cabinet.

Ms Claire Perrin Davies - **Marooned Hairdressers, 52A High Street, Cowbridge** - remove existing black awning above ground floor walkway and replace with a retractable black awning.

Ms G Sheppard - **11b Broadway, Cowbridge** - conservatory to rear of property.

Ms Lisa Edwards - **1 Grove Terrace, Penarth** - proposed entrance porch. Mr John Pritchard - **26 Sully Terrace, Penarth** - change of use from ground floor shop and first floor dwelling to single domestic dwelling, including alterations and extensions.

Sainsbury's Plc - **28 Windsor Road, Penarth** - internally illuminated box fascia and one internally illuminated projecting sign.

to enclose the wheelie bins to prevent them straying onto the public highway and to avoid any fly tipping in the area.

Loft Co - **Washington Buildings, Stanwell Road, Penarth** - change of use of first floor units (A3) to live/work units.

Mr Darren Anstee - **118 Plymouth Road, Penarth** - replace windows to front and rear of property plus one rear door.

Mr Francis William Lister - **Bron Haulog,**

Blackton Farm, Port Road West, Penmark - continued use of private dwelling.

Mr Rob Lucas - **11 Ham Lane South, Llantwit Major** - special needs adaptations including single storey extension to include shower/WC ensuite, wheelchair storage and associated works.

Mr Paul Barnett - **49 Lewis Road, Llandough** - demolition of existing single storey extension and conservatory and rebuild new kitchen extension.

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08 CITROEN C2 1.4i VTR 3dr Hatch
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09 CITROEN C5 2.0 HDi 16v VTR+ Auto Dsl Sal
4dr, Red, 14,994 miles **£13,995**



CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE

59 1.6i 16v VTR 5dr Estate	Beige	10 miles	£9,995
09 1.6i 16v VTR 5dr Estate	Beige	4,084 miles	£9,995
07 1.4i Forte 5dr Estate	Grey	12,500 miles	£6,495
07 1.6 HDi 16v Forte 5dr Dsl Estate	Red	44,037 miles	£6,995

CITROEN C1

08 1.0i Vibe 5dr Hatch	Red	3,000 miles	£6,295
08 1.0i Rhythm 3dr Hatch	Red	16,501 miles	£6,995
06 1.0 Vibe 3dr Hatch	Yellow	25,000 miles	£4,995

CITROEN C2

58 1.4 HDi VTR 3dr Diesel Hatch	Black	9,091 miles	£8,495
07 1.1i Airplay + 3dr Hatch Sp Eds	Yellow	12,133 miles	£6,495
08 1.4i VTR 3dr Hatch	Silver	15,846 miles	£7,495
06 1.6i 16v VTR 3dr SensoDrive Hatch	Blue	14,000 miles	£5,995
06 1.6i 16v VTR 3dr SensoDrive Hatch	Red	23,521 miles	£5,995

CITROEN C3

08 1.4i Cachet 5dr Hatch Special Ed	Silver	11,905 miles	£7,995
07 1.4i SX 5dr Hatch	Silver	35,500 miles	£6,495
56 1.4i SX 5dr Hatch	Grey	19,342 miles	£6,495
55 1.6i 16v Exclusive 5dr Sensodrive Hatch	Blue	24,769 miles	£5,995

CITROEN C4

59 1.6i 16v THO VTS 3dr Coupe	Blue	2,967 miles	£13,995
56 1.6 HDi 16v SX 5dr Diesel Hatch	Silver	19,901 miles	£7,995
56 1.6i 16v Cool 3dr Coupe Sp Eds	Silver	29,002 miles	£6,995

06 1.6i HDi 16v VTR Plus 3dr Dsl Coupe	Silver	10,573 miles	£8,495
07 1.4i 16v LX 5dr Hatch	Blue	18,000 miles	£6,495
07 1.6i 16v SX 5dr Auto Hatch	Mauve	11,434 miles	£6,995

CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO

58 1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Grey	19,441 miles	£14,495
08 1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Blue	8,749 miles	£14,495
57 1.6 HDi 16v VTR+ 5dr D Est	Mauve	12,659 miles	£13,495
07 2.0 HDi 16v VTR + 5dr EGS D Est	Silver	21,659 miles	£13,495

CITROEN C4 PICASSO

57 2.0 16v SX 5dr EGS (5 seat) Estate	Silver	7,723 miles	£10,995
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CITROEN C5

58 2.0i 16v VTR+ 4dr Saloon	Blue	21,324 miles	£11,995
58 2.0 HDi 16v VTR+ 4dr Auto Dsl Sal	Red	14,994 miles	£13,995
58 2.0 HDi 16v VTR+ 4dr Dsl Saloon	Blue	18,297 miles	£12,995
06 HDi 16v Exclusive 5dr Diesel Hatch	Silver	35,000 miles	£7,995

CITROEN RELAY

58 2.2 HDi H1 Van 120ps 33 L1 Diesel White		5,041 miles	£12,645
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CITROEN XSARA PICASSO

59 1.6i 16v Desire 5dr Estate	Silver	3,528 miles	£10,495
59 1.6i 16v Desire 5dr Estate	Red	1 mile	£10,995
08 1.6 HDi 92 VTX 5dr Diesel Estate	Black	25,676 miles	£9,995
06 2.0 16v VTX 5dr Auto Estate	Blue	30,215 miles	£8,595

PEUGEOT 107

05 1.0 Urban 3dr Hatch	Blue	44,000 miles	£4,795
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59 Berlingo Multispace 1.6 16v VTR 5dr Est
Beige, 10 miles **£9,995**



56 CITROEN C3 1.4i SX 5dr Hatch
Grey, 19,342 miles **£6,495**



07 C4 Grand Picasso 2.0 HDi 16v VTR+ EGS
5dr Dsl Est, Silver, 21,659 miles **£13,495**



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- 07 07 JAGUAR X K convertible. Zircon blue metallic with ivory sports leather interior, upgraded 20 inch satin wheels, full colour satellite navigation, electric heated memory seats, cruise control, climate control, rear parking sensors, bluetooth phone prep, only 12,621 miles, fsh, 1 owner £42,995
- 06 56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon. In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh £14,995
- 06 56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary i-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers £11,995
- 05 05 MERCEDES Benz 1.8 SLK 200 Compressor Auto 2-dr Convertible in Tellur silver, black leather interior, climate control, multi-function steering wheel, CD, alloys, only 61,000 miles, fsh £16,995
- 05 05 MERCEDES Benz M-Class 2.7 TD ML270 CDI Automatic 5-Door Station Wagon. In Brilliant silver with Orion grey leather interior, climate control, Bluetooth phone prep, privacy glass, heated seats, rear parking sensors, only 52,975 miles £15,995
- 05 55 VOLVO S40 2.0 Diesel SE 5-dr Hatchback. In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, cd, alloy wheels, electric sunroof, electric seats, only 34,255 miles £9,995
- 04 54 MERCEDES Benz CL500 5 litre 2-dr Auto coupe. In tanzanite blue with java leather interior with BOSE sound system, AMG body styling, electric sunroof, only 48,245 miles £19,995
- 01 51 JAGUAR S-Type 3.0 V6 4-Door Saloon Automatic. In Pacific blue with cashmere beige full leather interior, climate control, CD, electric seats, rear parking sensors, only 55,810 miles £5,995
- 01 X LEXUS RX 300 Station Wagon Auto. In platinum silver with Lincoln interior, air con, alloy wheels, electric windows, alarm and immobiliser, only 85,000 miles £5,995

SPORTS

- 07 07 NISSAN Navara 2.5 DCI Outlaw Double Cab Pick-Up. In starburst silver, with black outlaw cloth interior, air con, cruise control, alloy wheels, lockable colour coded load cover, only 24,580 miles £13,995 + VAT
- 07 07 VW Beetle 1.6 Luna 2-dr Cabriolet. In harvest moon beige with dark interior, heated seats, CD, front fog, colour coded bumpers, only 11,335 miles £12,995
- 07 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In Onyx black with Madrid black/grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, front fog, colour coded bumpers, only 29,405 miles £7,495
- 06 56 HONDA Civic 1.8i V-tec Type-S 3-dr Hatchback. In alabaster silver with alcantara/suede interior, climate control, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 24,405 miles £10,495
- 06 06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDI 2.0 (140) 5-dr in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles £9,995
- 06 06 AUDI A3 1.9TDI Special Edition 3-dr Hatchback. In brilliant black with module black cloth interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, full Audi service history, one owner, only 55,390 miles £9,495
- 06 06 FORD Focus 1.8TDi Sport 5-dr Hatchback. In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles £7,495
- 06 55 AUDI A3 2.0T FSI 5-dr Sport Back in Avus silver with matrix cloth interior, BOSE speaker system, 17 inch alloy wheels, front fog, climate control, cd, only 39,280 miles £11,995
- 05 05 MINI Cooper 1.6 Coupe 2-dr Hatchback. In silver with anthracite interior, a/c, alloys, cd, rear parking sensors, only 49,390 miles £11,995
- 55 BMW X3 2.0D Sport 5-dr Station Wagon. In blue water silver with black leather interior, sat nav, multi CD, heated seats, front and rear parking sensors, only 61,930 miles £14,995
- 54 MG ZT 1.8 Estate 160 5-dr Hatchback. In Royal blue, Monaco ash half leather interior, alloy wheels, multi-function steering wheel, only 32,320 miles £5,995
- 54 TOYOTA Celica 1.8 VVTi Premium Coupe. In crystal silver with Montreal black leather interior, climate control, alloy wheels, immobiliser, deadlocks, alarm, CD, only 27,953 miles £7,995
- 54 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 HDi 110bhp GTI 3-dr Hatchback. In Sahara yellow with half anthracite leather/suede interior, digital air con, multi CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 22,755 miles £6,995
- 04 04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback. In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles £6,995
- 03 53 MGTF 1.8 135bhp 2-door Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles £4,495
- 52 VOLKSWAGEN Golf TDI (130) 5-Dr Hatchback. In Reflex silver with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, climate control, CD changer, only 68,990 miles £5,995
- 01 Y AUDI TT Roadster 1.8i Quattro (2dr) in met silver with anthracite leather, 18" alloy wheels, heated seats, trip computer, cruise control + climate control, cd multi-changer with BOSE stereo upgrade, only 63,010 miles £8,495
- 00 X TVR Tuscan 4 litre V8 360bhp. In crystal topaz pearl blue with portland grey leather interior, cd, 18" spyder alloy wheels, e/windows, cat 1 alarm, e/mirrors, a/c, substantial workshop portfolio, supreme example, only 36,000 miles £12,995
- 99 T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr Convertible. In Green with green leather interior, colour coded bumpers, CD, alloy wheels, electric hood, only 51,300 miles £5,995

FAMILY

- 06 56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr hatchback. In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles £7,995
- 06 56 CHEVROLET Equinox 1.6 SX 5-dr Estate. In imperial blue with grey interior, air con, CD, colour coded bumpers, immobiliser, service history, only 31,860 miles £4,995
- 06 06 FORD Focus C-Max 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5-dr MPV in tonic blue with dark flint interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 31,000 miles £8,995
- 06 06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 18V SE 5-dr Hatchback. In hurricane grey with khaki black interior, front fog, 18 inch multi CD, air con, rear parking sensors, only 40,018 miles £6,995
- 05 05 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 16v Exclusive 5-Dr MPV. In Oriental blue with doric blue interior, cruise control, automatic air con, 11x11 anchor point, traction control system, only 32,355 miles £6,495
- 04 54 PEUGEOT 204 2.0 2-Dr Estate 90 XSI 5-dr Hatchback. In black/grey marlin interior, a/c, body coloured bumpers, cd, alloys, only 45,796 miles £5,995
- 54 RENAULT Scenic 1.4 16v Authentique in met grey with anthracite interior, a/c, auto wipers, auto lights, only 42,800 miles £4,695
- 04 04 TOYOTA Avenis 2.0 VVTi Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, sat, moritz charcoal leather, map, gps, nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles £6,995
- 04 04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCI 120 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In metallic silver, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cd, only 42,955 miles £4,995
- 04 04 FORD Focus 1.6 16v Ghia Hatchback. In moon dust silver with midnight black interior, air con, quick clear windscreen, front fog lights, colour coded bumpers, only 48,695 miles £4,495
- 52 NISSAN Almera 1.8 SVE 5-dr Hatchback. Grey tungsten cloth, cd, a/c, reversing sensors, colour coded bumpers, only 44,300 miles £3,995
- 52 AUDI A4 1.9 TDI SE. In denim blue with phoenix blue upholstery, climate control, cd, alloys, only 26,075 miles £7,995
- 01 Y BMW 3 Series 1.9i 316 4-dr Saloon. In bright red with dark interior, electric windows, colour coded bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 49,125 miles £4,295

SMALL

- 08 58 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVTi T2 5-dr Hatchback. In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles £7,995
- 08 08 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Breeze in black sapphire, alloy wheels, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, multi-functional steering wheel, only 5,242 miles £7,495
- 07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCI Extreme hatchback. In black with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, cd, electric windows, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, only £35 per year road tax, 27,650 miles £7,295
- 07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Expression 3-dr in platinum silver met with voile interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, remote central locking, elec windows, alarm and immobiliser, only 4,747 miles £6,995
- 06 56 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Zetec Climate 5-dr Hatchback. In Tonic blue with Kompass blue interior, air con, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, only 39,475 miles £6,495
- 06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-Dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles £5,995
- 06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus Sport in pearl black pearlescent with extreme interior, colour coded bumpers, remote central locking, alloy wheels, alarm and immobiliser, electric windows, only 22,488 miles £5,295
- 55 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVTi Sport in carbon quartz met with dark flint interior, alloy wheels, cd, remote central locking, alarm and immobiliser, electric windows, only 51,300 miles £4,995
- 55 FORD Ka Luxury 1.3 4-dr Hatchback. In Tonic blue with ebony leather interior, air con, quick clear screen, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 16,980 miles £5,495
- 54 FORD Fiesta Flame 1.4 Limited Edition 5-Dr Hatchback. In Flare orange with Kompass silver interior, CD, alloy wheels, roof spoiler, air con, only 36,585 miles £4,695
- 54 FORD Ka 1.3 3-door Hatchback. In deep navy blue with indigo cascade cloth interior, CD, ABS, immobiliser, power steering, only 31,595 miles £2,995
- 04 04 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cdn alloy wheels, front fog, only 43,895 miles £6,495
- 04 04 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In Platinum silver with dark grey interior, sunroof, alloy wheels, CD, front fog, only 37,700 miles £4,795
- 04 04 FORD Ka 1.3 Style 3-dr Hatchback. In moon dust silver with digit anthracite interior, CD, power steering, colour coded bumpers, only 48,655 miles £3,495
- 02 02 PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Coupe Cabriolet S 2-dr in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, air con, cd, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, auto lights, only 64,220 miles £5,495
- 52 RENAULT Megane 1.6 16v Dynamique 3-dr Hatchback in met silver with dark interior, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 49,060 miles £3,995
- 02 DAEWOO Matiz 0.8 SE 5-dr. In super red with grey interior, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 30,288 miles £2,495
- 01 51 PEUGEOT 206 2.0 Coupe Cabriolet SE 2-dr in platinum silver with full black astrakan leather interior, digital climate control, cd, 16 inch alloy wheels, front fog, only 46,010 miles £4,995
- 00 X RENAULT Megane 1.4 16v Sport Alize 2-Door Coupe. In Monaco blue with blue interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, immobiliser, only 62,000 miles £2,495
- L 93 AUSTIN Mini 1.3 Sprite 2-dr Saloon Automatic. In night fire red with grey interior, all original specification, only 47,215 miles £2,995



06 56 BMW 116i SE 5-dr in sparkling graphite met with full Boston beige leather interior, comfort pack, cd, climate control, alloy wheels, reversing sensors, auxiliary i-pod connection, only 19,950 miles interior or titanium trim, auto lights and auto wipers £11,995

06 56 BMW 2.0TD 320D SE 4-dr Saloon. In Arctic grey with anthracite interior, automatic air con, upgraded alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, only 41,655 miles, fsh £14,995



02 52 VOLKSWAGEN Golf TDI (130) 5-Dr Hatchback. In Reflex silver with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, climate control, CD changer, only 68,990 miles £5,995

06 06 VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDI 2.0 (140) 5-dr in steel grey with dark interior, cd, dual climate control, cruise control, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, only 58,300 miles £9,995



07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.5 DCI 68 Extreme hatchback. In black with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, cd, electric windows, remote central locking, alarm, immobiliser, only £35 per year road tax, 27,650 miles £7,295

07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Expression 3-dr in platinum silver met with voile interior, cd, air con, alloy wheels, remote central locking, elec windows, alarm and immobiliser, only 4,747 miles £6,995



05 55 FORD Ka Luxury 1.3 3-dr Hatchback. In Tonic blue with ebony leather interior, air con, quick clear screen, CD, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 16,980 miles £5,495

04 54 FORD Ka 1.3 3-door Hatchback. In deep navy blue with indigo cascade cloth interior, CD, ABS, immobiliser, power steering, only 31,595 miles £2,995

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04 04 TOYOTA Celia
VVTi 1.8 39k, leather



£5,775

07 07 RENAULT Clio
1.2 Campus,
grey met, 39k miles



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00 W JAGUAR Sovereign
4.0 Auto, cream leather



£4,975

03 53 HYUNDAI Coupe
2.0SE, 51k, leather

Finance example

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Final payment of £462.06
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Total amount payable
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APR 14.82%
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Small Cars

- 02 02 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 GL Special 5dr. Silver met, 50k miles, rcl, a/c, e/w, alloys £3,475
04 53 FIAT Punto 1.3 Active 5dr. Grey, 71k miles, cl., ew, pas, city beater, cd £3,475
03 03 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active 5dr. Blue met, 47k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd £3,675
03 03 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 AUTO. Blue met, 25k, rcl, pas, ew, cd £3,975
03 03 SKODA Fabia 1.9 TDI Turbo Diesel 5dr. Green met, 61k miles, rcl, cd, alloys £4,475
04 54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 3dr SXI. Blue metallic, 53k miles, rcl, alloys, ew, pas £4,475
05 54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Expression 3dr. Silver, met, 58k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd £4,475
07 07 HYUNDAI Amica 1.1 GSI 5dr. Blue metallic, 20k miles, ew, cd, pas £4,475
04 04 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Expression 5dr. Blue met, 32k miles, rcl, pas, e/w, cd £4,675
05 55 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 VVT-i Colour Collection 3dr. Met grey, 38k miles, alloys, rcl, pas, ew £4,975
06 06 VAUXHALL Agila 1.2 16v Enjoy 5dr. Met purple, 12k miles rcl, pas, ew, cd £5,975
07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5dr. grey met, 39k miles, rcl, pas, ew, cd £5,775
07 07 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3dr, silver met, 39k miles, ew, pas, cd £6,475
07 07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Life (a/c) 3dr, grey met, 26k miles, rcl, pas, cd, ew £6,475
07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles £6,975
08 08 SUZUKI Swift 1.3 gl 5dr. Met orange with silver stripes, 19k miles, rcl, alloys, cd £7,975

Family Cars

- 04 04 HONDA Jazz 1.4 DSI SE AUTO 5dr. Silver metallic, rcl, cd, ew, alloys £4,975
05 05 NISSAN Almera Tino 1.8 SE mpv, 31k miles £4,975
05 05 FORD Mondeo 2.0 LX Estate, red met, 33k miles, rcl, ew, pas, roof rails £5,475
06 06 FORD Fusion 1.6 Zetec AUTO 5dr. Silver met, 44k miles, rcl, alloys, a/c, cd £6,975
07 07 FIAT Grande Punto 1.2 Dynamic 5dr. Met blue, e windows, RCL, 5k miles £6,975
06 06 FORD Focus 1.8 TDCi Ghia 5dr DIESEL. Tonic met, alloys, cd, fsh £7,975

Sports & Executives

- 01 51 ROVER 75 2.5 V6 AUTO Connoisseur. Blue met, rcl, a/c, cd, alloys, e/w, nav, full leather £3,475
00 W JAGUAR Sovereign 4.0 Auto 5dr. Met green, 89k, cream leather, a/c, must be seen £4,975
04 54 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCI 3dr (120bhp) Dynamique TURBO DIESEL. 60k miles, panoramic roof, rcl, a/c, e/w £5,475
03 52 PEUGEOT 206cc Convertible. Silver met, 38k miles, rcl, e/w, cd, 2 tone leather £5,975
05 54 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 CDTi SRI AUTO 5dr. Met blue, alloys, a/c, fsh £5,975
08 08 FIAT Grande Punto 1.4 Dynamic Sport. Grey, 12k miles, rcl, e/w, alloys, a/c £7,975
04 04 TOYOTA Celia VVTi. Met silver, 39k, S/H, sports pack, leather, sunroof, a/c £7,475
04 04 BMW 330D Sport 5dr. Met silver, M TEC styling, leather, fsh £8,975

Estates, MPVs and 4x4s

- 02 02 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Expression MPV AUTO, silver met, 55k miles, rcl, ew, ac, twin sunroofs £2,975
04 04 DAEWOO Tacuma 1.6 Extra MPV, silver met, 22k miles, rcl, ew, pas, roof rails £3,475
05 05 NISSAN Almera Tino 1.8 SE MPV. Silver met, 32k miles, rcl, cd, a/c, ew, reverse, climate £4,975
05 54 CITROEN Picasso 1.6 HDI Exclusive MPV, met silver £7,475
07 07 LANDROVER Freelander 2.2 TD4 HSE. Black metallic, 23k miles, front and rear sensors, touch screen nav £21,975

Summer Cars - Winter Prices

- 96 N FORD Friedia AUTO 2.5 TURBO DIESEL. 96k miles, a/c, electric blinds, elevating roof £4,975
03 53 MGTF 115 Sunstorm CONVERTIBLE. Black met, 49k miles, alloys, rcl, hard top £4,975
04 53 MGTF 1.8 135 CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 31k miles, alloys, rcl, e/w, pas £4,975
04 04 FORD Street Ka Luxury 1.6 CONVERTIBLE luxury. Black, 49k miles, leather, rcl, a/c, cd, e/w £5,975
06 06 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique CONVERTIBLE. Black met, 21k miles, rcl, a/c, cd, e/w £8,975
04 04 SAAB 93 2.0T Vector CONVERTIBLE. Grey met, 50k miles, alloys, cd, a/c, rcl, full leather £9,475
04 04 MERCEDES SL 500 AUTO CONVERTIBLE. Silver met, 82k miles, nav, keyless go, leather, park sensors £19,975

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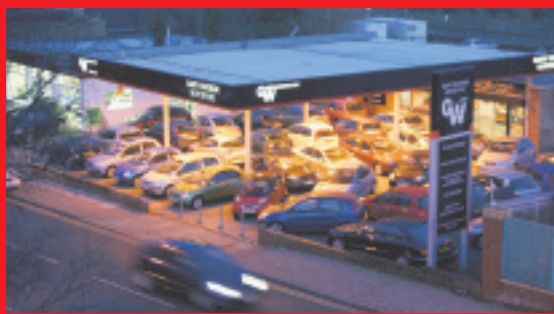
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GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£5,515.00
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GEM sport

Wales set to roar in battle of the Lions - and spoil centenary celebrations

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

AS if the final countdown to the 119th meeting between world rugby's two arch rivals is not drama enough for the most fervent aficionados, the Lee Byrne saga has been in danger of igniting a fuse that could make Saturday's centenary-year clash at Twickenham an even more explosive occasion than usual.

For there is no doubt that the farcical events of the Heineken Cup match between the Ospreys and Leicester Tigers that saw Wales and British Lions full back Byrne being singled out for blame in the '16th man' uproar and banned from facing England after the defeated Tigers' vehement protests, have left a bitter aftertaste on both sides of the border.

The fact that the Welsh camp's preparations for the Six Nations opener were seriously disrupted, forcing the head coach to delay his team announcement while Byrne mounted a successful appeal against his sentence in Glasgow on Tuesday, would not have gone down well, with many rightly questioning why an unintentional touchline mix-up in a club competition should result in a key Welsh player being penalised at international level. Thankfully, common-sense prevailed in the end.

With wily Leicester demanding a complete re-match because of the bare 50 seconds when Ospreys had 16 men on the field, Welsh indignation would not have been soothed by veiled suggestions of deliberate 'cheating' by the region fed through the London media - even equating it to the Harlequins - 'Bloodgate' scandal!

It has prompted wry rejoinders by those with long memories that the Leicester club itself has hardly been whiter-than-white 'Back' in the past!

Ironically, the prevailing attitude in this cynically-professional age where sport is now big business dictated by TV schedules, and money is the main motivating force, was unwittingly spelt out by former England star turned rugby pundit, Stuart Barnes, when he wrote:

"Cheating is smart play... You have to coach teams how to be disciplined and by discipline, I mean committing infringements when they have to - not for the sake of them..."

"During a game there are times when you think the opposition is going to score and you have to break the rules..."

All this is a far cry from the situation the red-faced Ospreys management found themselves in, but it remains to be seen if the fall-out from the Heineken controversy still clouds the air when the two teams run out at 'Twickers' on Saturday.

If so, it would be a pity, for this 119th match promises to be a particularly enthralling encounter between two camps that have much to prove, following disappointing autumn results, and the relative lack of success by their respective clubs and regions in Europe.

Freed of the distractions afflicting Warren Gatland and the Wales management, England kingpin Martin Johnson was able to quietly unveil his line-up at lunchtime on Tuesday and it contained few surprises.

With a pack containing the likes of Moody, Haskell, Easter and Shaw; and a pacey-looking backline marshalled by born-



Martyn Williams, whose battle at the breakdown with Lewis Moody will be crucial.

again Jonny Wilkinson, on paper it presents a potentially formidable mix.

However, the more seasoned Wales team, packed with British Lions and buoyed by four victories in the last six meetings with the 'old enemy' including the stunning 23-15 win to launch the second Grand Slam two years ago, will be quietly confident of spoiling the centenary celebrations.

They were banking on a reunited Lions' front row of Adam Jones, Matthew Rees and Gethin Jenkins, to establish a crucial edge over the English lion, by dominating the less battle-hardened opposing trio, thus enabling the Welsh pack to tie in the big English eight, and freeing their own exciting backs to seek out the wide open spaces of Twickenham.

Sadly, when the team was announced yesterday it showed that Rees has had to withdraw through injury, and will be replaced by in-form Blues hooker Gareth Williams, whose wing colleague Tom James starts ahead of Leigh Halfpenny.

With Byrne thankfully at full back, there were no other surprises, though one imagination there was quite a bit of debate over the inside half slot.

As all eyes now turn towards west London, both head coaches will be all too painfully aware that this is already seen as a season-defining match in terms of their teams' aspirations, as rugby's holy grail of World Cup glory inches ever nearer.

Let battle commence!

WALES TEAM:

Lee Byrne; Tom James, James Hook, Jamie Roberts, Shane Williams; Stephen Jones, Gareth Cooper; Gethin Jenkins, Gareth Williams, Adam Jones, Alan Wyn Jones, Luke Charteris, Andy Powell, Martyn Williams, Ryan Jones (captain).

Replacements: Huw Bennett, Paul James, Bradley Davies, Jonathan Thomas, Richie Rees, Andrew Bishop, Leigh Halfpenny.

(See full Six Nations fixture list and Welsh squad picture on page 10).

'Inside-out' Athletic win after late rally

IT was great to see a bright sunny afternoon to welcome Builth Wells to Newbridge Fields for the Athletic's first home league fixture of the New Year.

Despite the sunny conditions, there was a keen wind blowing down the pitch and a keen set of opponents playing with it.

It was the visitors who signalled their intentions early by hoisting a number of high kicks to try to unsettle the home defence, but these were capably dealt with by the back three of Morris, Nation and McCausland, and play was pushed back to halfway.

As the Athletic attacked from a scrum, flanker Hillman was penalised for tripping and Builth right wing Thurston made no mistake with the kick to give them an early lead.

Builth continued with their kicking tactics and from an exchange, Lindsay McCausland made a threatening run into Builth territory before being felled by a high tackle which, although penalised, was only accompanied by a stern warning to the perpetrator.

Unfortunately, Morris was unable to capitalise from 30 metres. Builth experienced some more success by driving up the touchline, but gave away a penalty that saw them on the defensive 10 metres out from their own line.

A smart lineout move by the Ath saw lock Jamie Doherty surge around the front to offload to hooker Stuart Nation to dart over in the corner.

Stuart Morris made it seven points with a well-judged kick from near the touchline.

The Athletic contin-

**BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 22
BUILTH WELLS 18**

ued to have the better of the last few exchanges of the half, but a series of errors moved them back to halfway and, when they were penalised at the breakdown, Thurston once again stepped up to and home supporters were expecting their team to move away and secure a bonus point victory.

At half-time, the referee decided that the teams were difficult to distinguish and asked the Ath to turn their jerseys inside out.

The 'new' kit seemed to inspire the home team and they started the second half strongly and exerted a good period of pressure on the Builth line, with a couple of drives going close.

With the scrum under pressure, they found it difficult to capitalise and a charge down of Steve Lewis's attempted drop-goal carried play back to the Ath 22.

Back again came the Athletic when scrum-half Aled Thomas's chip kick was gathered by McCausland, who was driven forward towards the line.

Builth were forced to give away successive penalties, one of which resulted in a yellow card.

The Athletic attacked close to the posts and when the ball came back to the left, some excellent interpassing allowed Sean Williams to send McCausland over, only for the final pass to be adjudged forward.

However, the Bridgend team were not to be denied and more determined attacking drives, with Hillman and Doherty to the fore, allowed the ball to be quickly moved wide for centre Rob Coles to break the defence.

STOP PRESS: College students' Haiti appeal gig

MUSIC and Media students at Bridgend College have rallied to the Haiti appeal.

They are promoting 'Dress-up Tuesday' on February 9, where staff and students are asked to come into college in fancy dress and donate £1 each to Unicef.

Bridgend College bands will also be performing at the Bridgend Recreation Centre on Friday February 12, from 6.30pm. Tickets are £5 and can be purchased on the door.

In addition, background and technical support will be provided by music technology students and staff.

When he was tackled just short, he was able to off-load for his co-centre Hywel Davies, who crashed over for a try which Morris converted.

The Athletic were right on top at this point and home supporters were expecting their team to move away and secure a bonus point victory.

This was not to be as the Athletic drifted through the next phase of the game and Builth Wells raised their efforts.

The Athletic scrum was again a weakness exploited by the visitors, as poor defensive work allowed the visitors to work their way over in the corner for a well-taken try which was converted from the touchline.

This gave the Bulls even more heart and play surged back into the home half.

It seemed that No 8 Tom Penry-Ellis had done enough to snuff out the attack, only for the ball to be turned over and a further bout of missed tackles and poor covering allowed

an almost carbon-copy try to be scored, giving the visitors an 18-14 lead with 15 minutes to go.

Ironically, the try that gave the Athletic back the lead came from miscommunication between the half-backs at a ruck near half-way.

Supporting flanker Tom Morgan received the ball in error, but he shrugged off the visiting No 8 before bursting close to the ruck and sprinting away from the defence to score an unconverted try.

For the next five minutes, the Ath had the better of the game, with Hywel Davies going close from a neat chip before a well-executed set move put replacement wing Rod Davies into space but the home team were unable to capitalise, apart from forcing a penalty that Steve Lewis converted to give them a four-point lead.

The dying minutes of the game were played out with Builth attempting to force their way over in the corner, but a knock-on allowed the Athletic to clear and seal a hard-fought victory over their indefatigable opponents.

MARK DAVIES

Ath Seconds prove too strong for Pencoed

BRIDGEND Athletic were able to field a strong second team for this league match against Pencoed, due to the return of several players from injury or unavailability.

The Athletic looked the stronger side from the kick-off, but had to face the efforts of a big Pencoed pack.

After 10 minutes, the ball was moved wide across the three-quarter line for full-back Pemberton to straighten the attack, burst through the drift defence and score near the posts. Tom Cole converted.

Following a five-metre line-out, hooker N Holman was driven over the line to score an unconverted try. A mistake in defence by Pencoed allowed flanker Liam Griffiths to pounce on the loose ball and flip a pass to supporting wing Chris Harris to score in the corner.

The half-time score

was 17-0 to the Athletic.

The Athletic ran away with the match in the second half against a tiring Pencoed side as they were able to bring on fresh legs from a strong bench. Further tries were added by Carle Ellis (when he took a quick tap penalty to barge over the line), Lloyd Pemberton added another with wing Nick Hinton, No 10 Morgan and prop Dai Price completing the scoring.

Final score:
Bridgend Athletic 53,
Pencoed 0.

RH

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